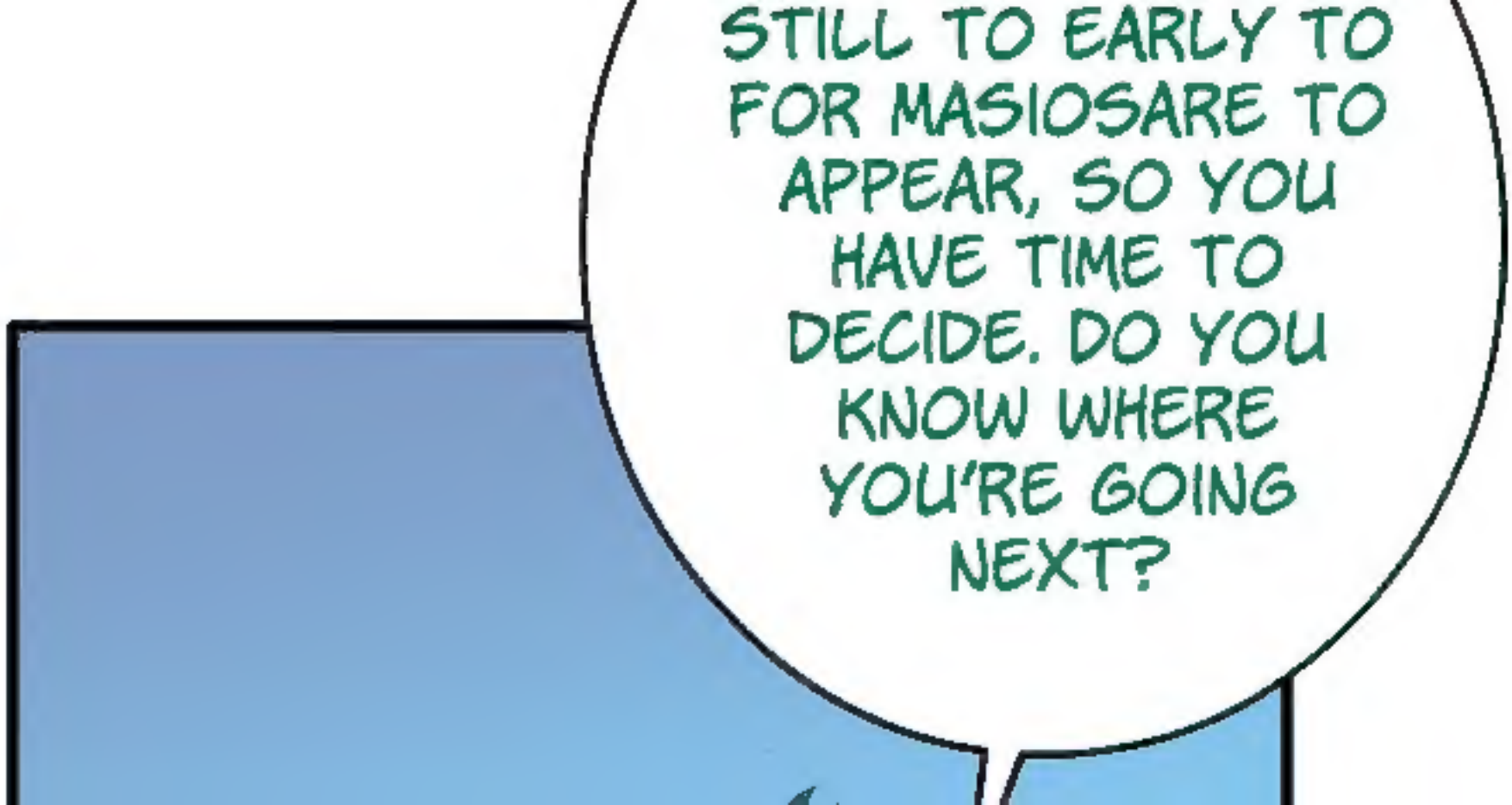
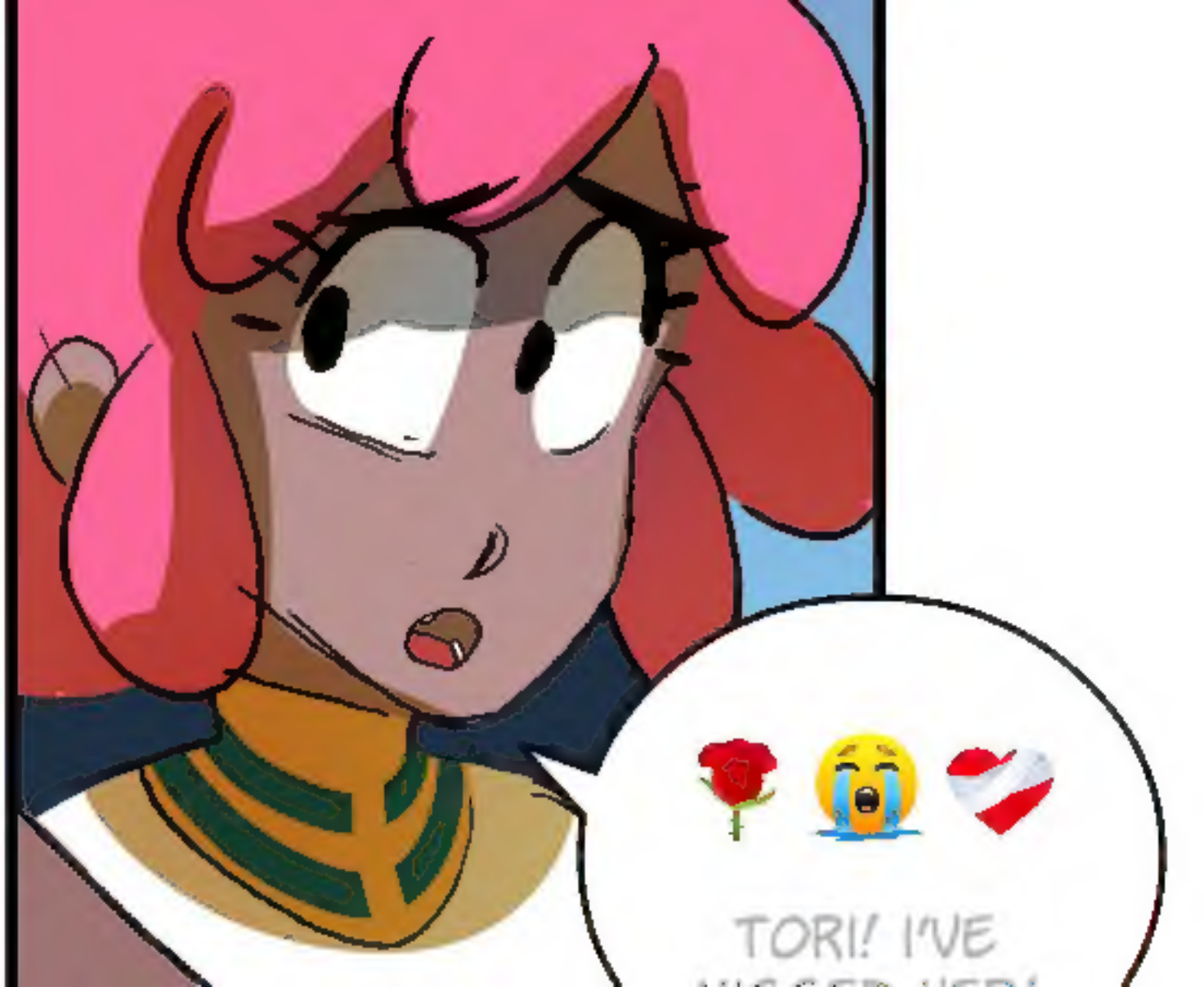
BESIDES, IT'S

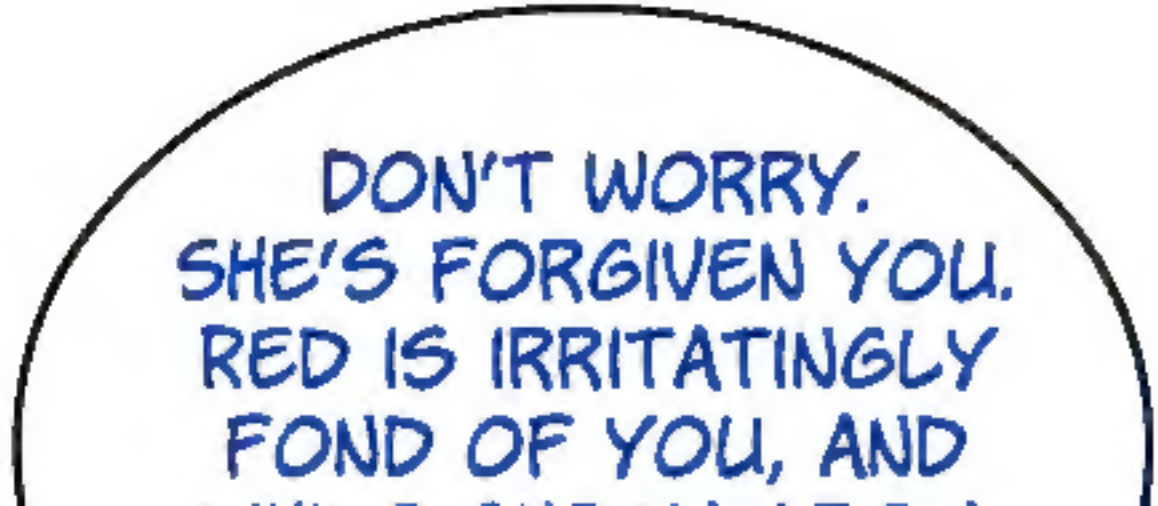

STILL TO EARLY TO FOR MASIOSARE TO APPEAR, SO YOU HAVE TIME TO DECIDE. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING NEXT?

YES!
WE HAVE TO
GO BACK TO 104
AND FIND TORI
AND HER
SWORD.


TORI! I'VE

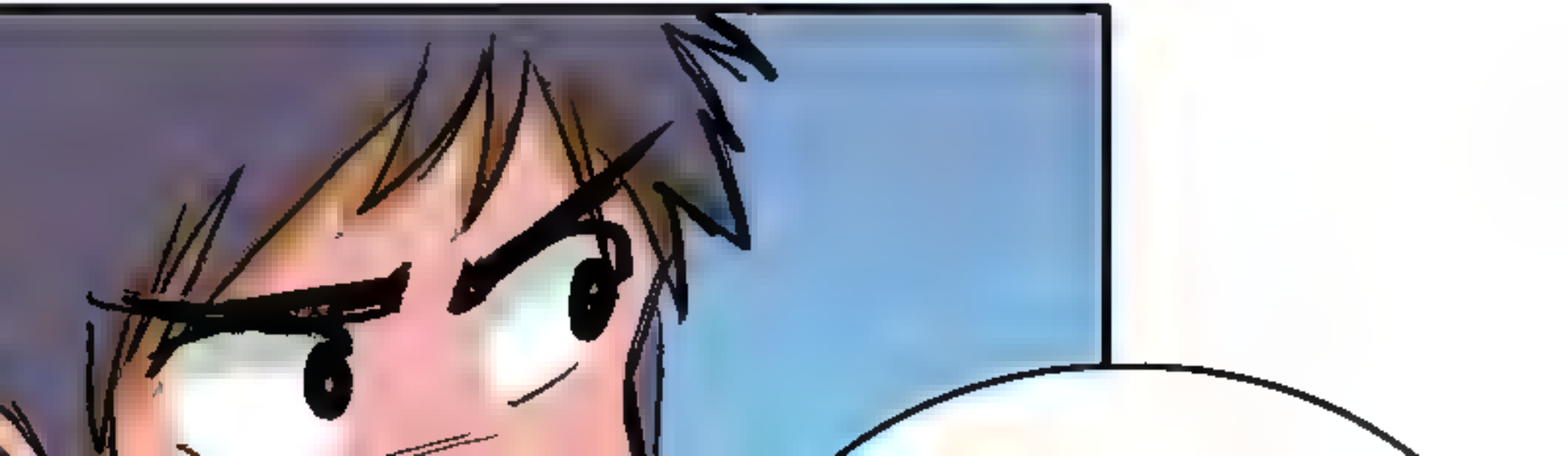
MISSED HER!

ME TOO. IT WILL BE NICE TO HAVE HER WITH US AGAIN. LIKE OLD TIMES! EVEN IF I STILL HAVE A LOT TO APOLOGIZE TO HER FOR.


DON'T WORRY.
SHE'S FORGIVEN YOU.
RED IS IRRITATINGLY
FOND OF YOU, AND

WHILE SHE MAY BE A HOT-HEAD, SHE'S NOT STUPID.

...IRRITATINGLY FOND?...NOT ANOTHER ONE! WE CAN'T KEEP CHASING YOUR OLD FLAMES ACROSS HISTORY..!

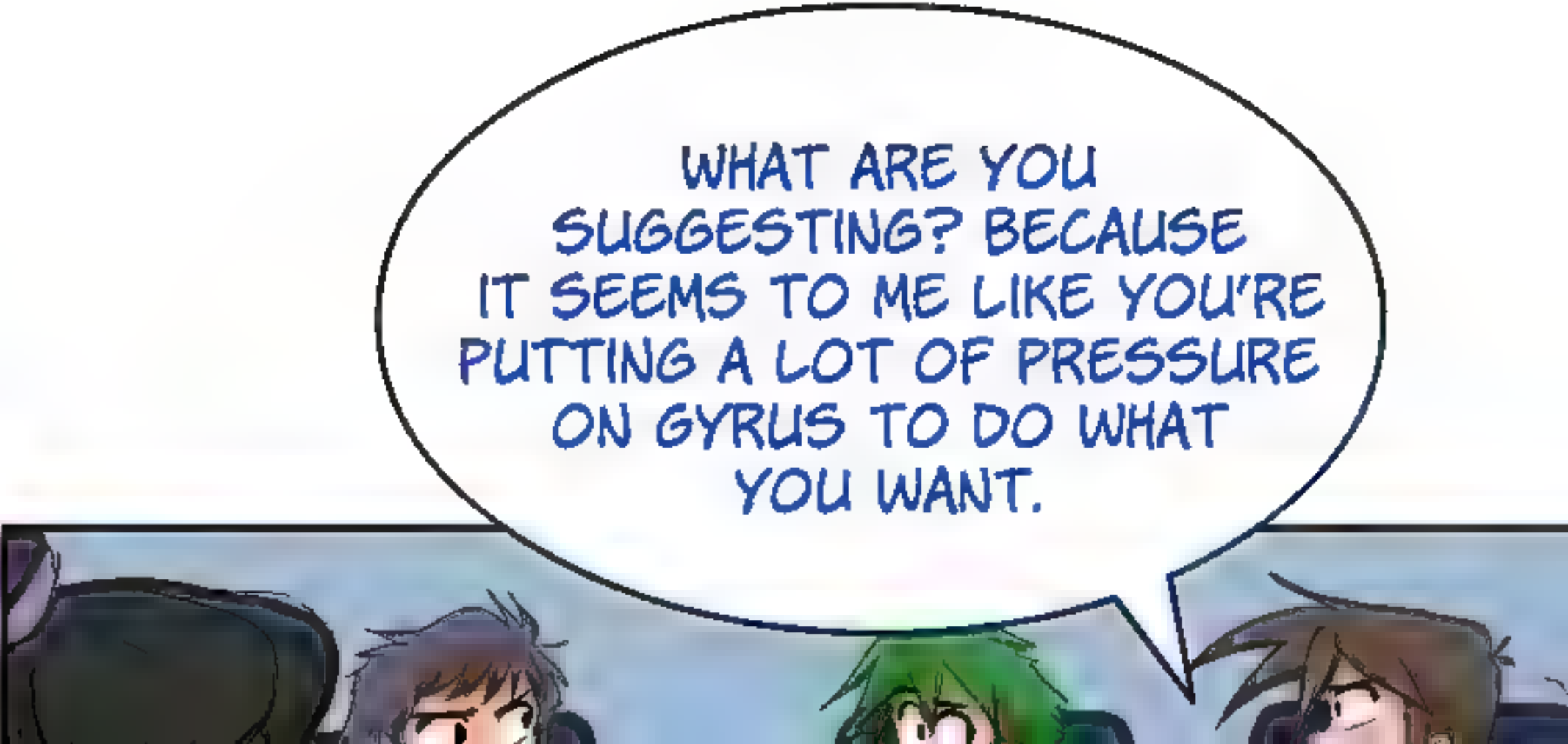


...BESIDES, EVEN IF WE ARE DOING A GOOD JOB COLLECTING THE SWORDS, DON SANTIAGO STILL HAS A HUGE ADVANTAGE OVER US.

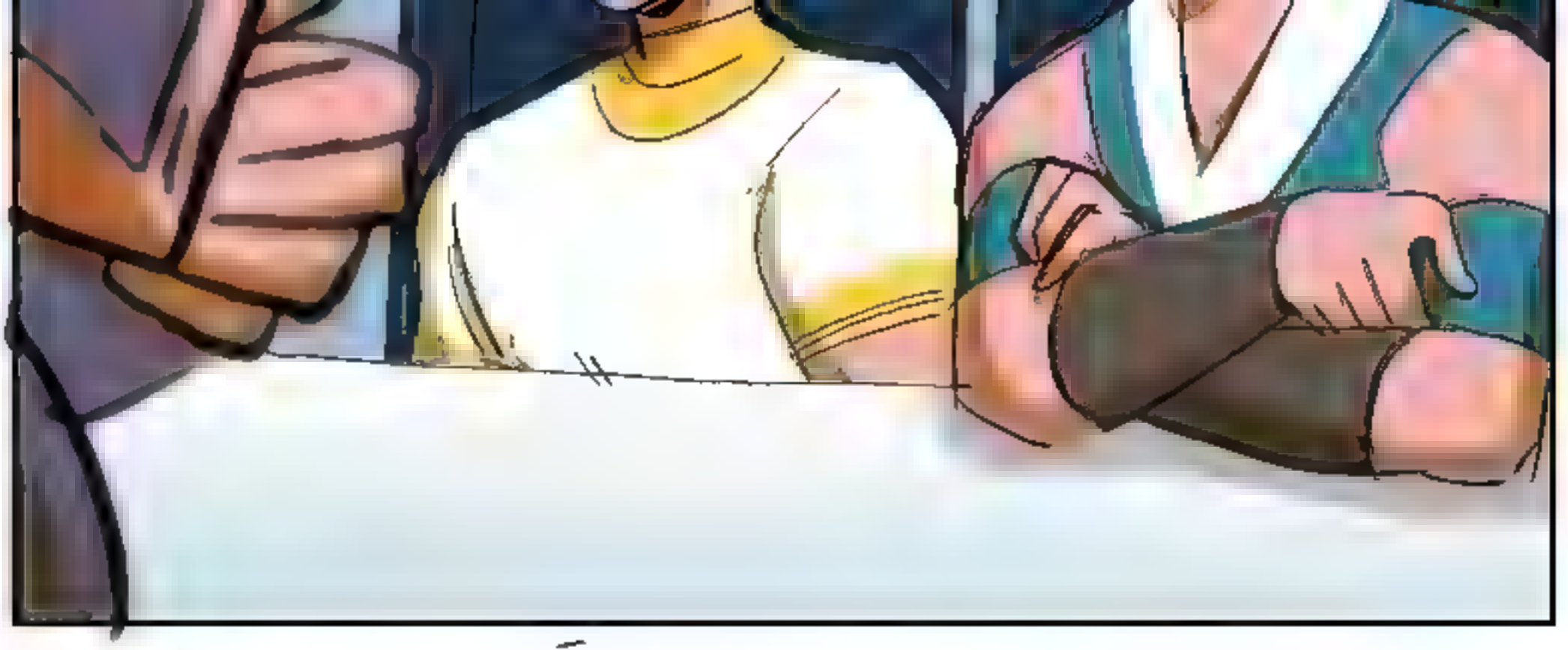
CADET, YOU SAID DON WAS WELL AWARE OF ALL THESE "RE-OCURRANCES" OR "RECURSIONS" THAT MEANS THAT HE HAS LIVED

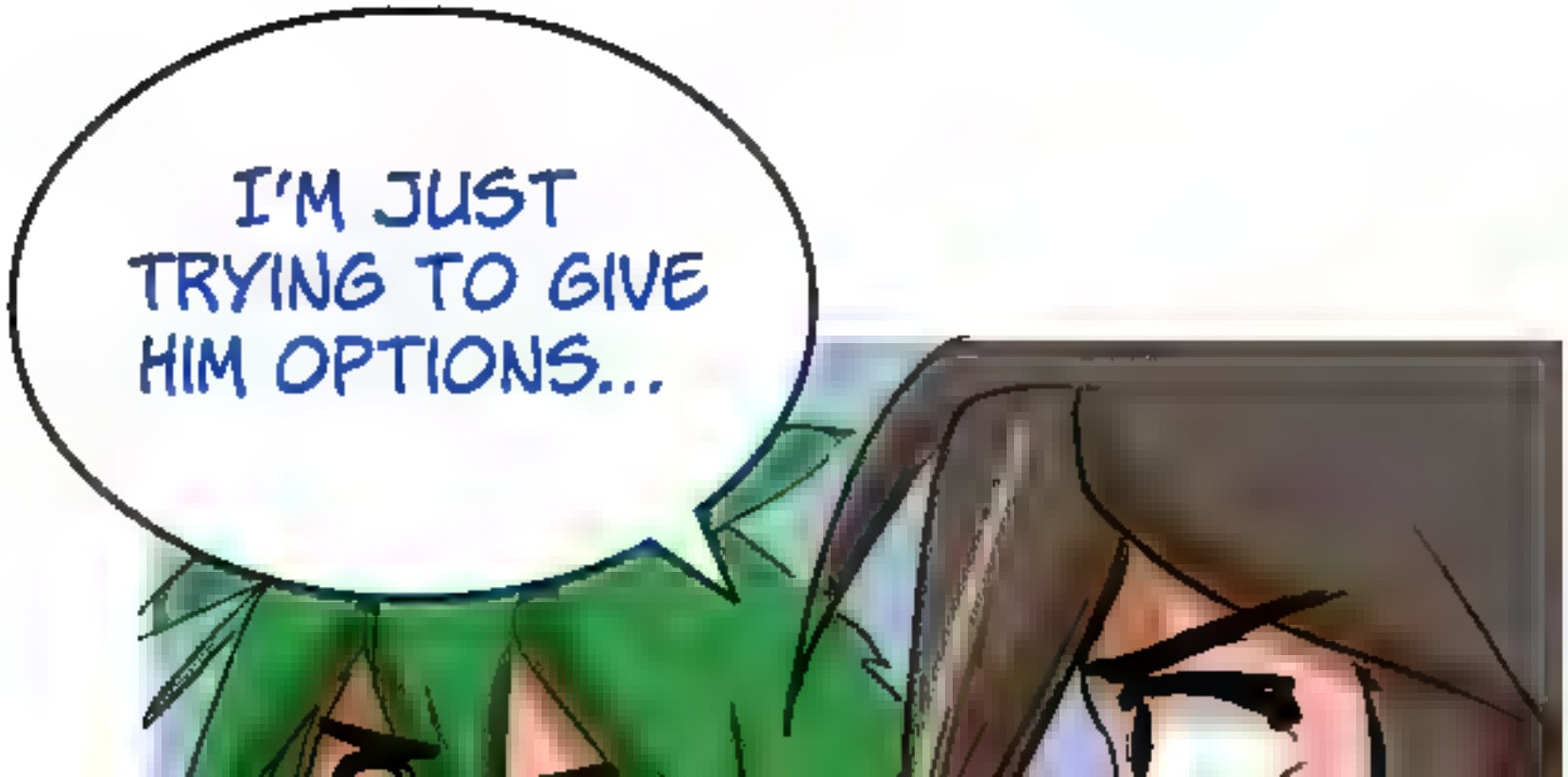
THROUGH ALL THESE AND KNOWING HIM...

...DON WILL USE THIS INTEL FOR A CHANCE TO STOP MASIOSARE FROM EXISTING- ITS THE EASIEST WAY TO GET RID OF HIM.

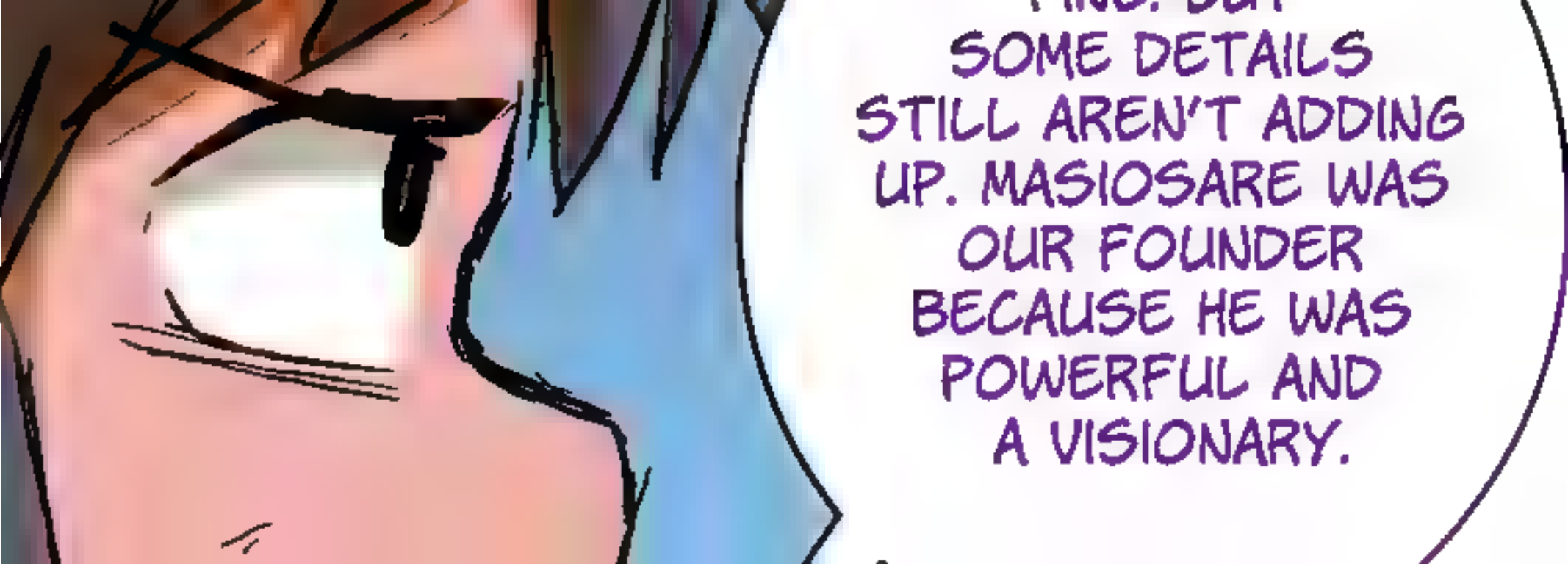

WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING? BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE PUTTING A LOT OF PRESSURE ON GYRUS TO DO WHAT YOU WANT.

AND YOU
AREN'T?




I'M JUST TRYING TO GIVE HIM OPTIONS...

FINE, BUT

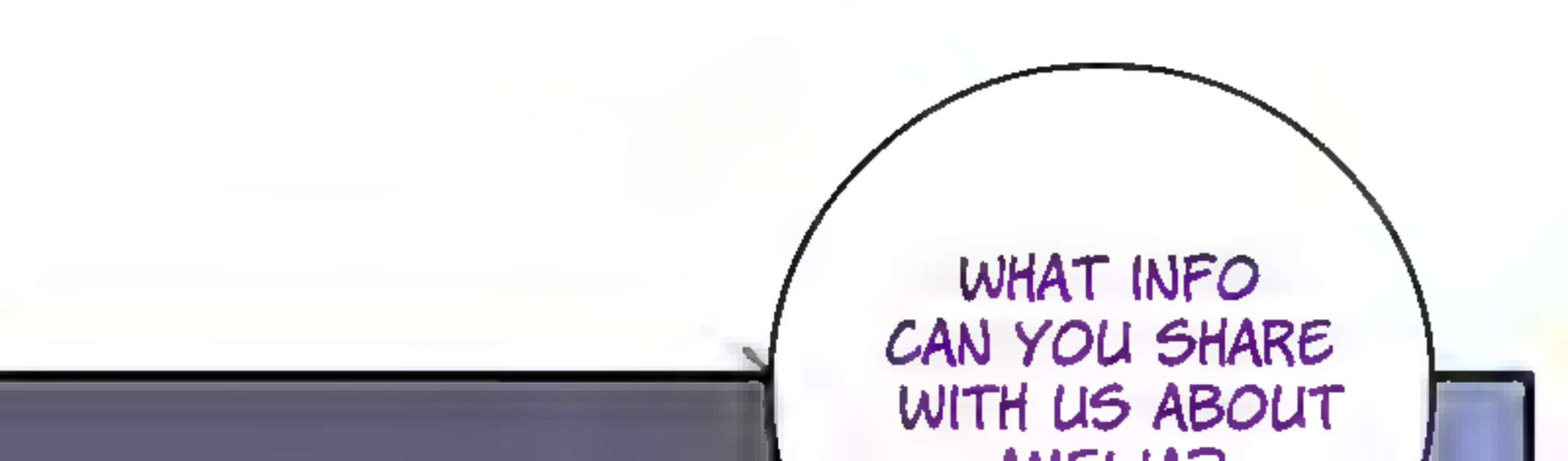

MIND. BUT
SOME DETAILS
STILL AREN'T ADDING
UP. MASIOSARE WAS
OUR FOUNDER
BECAUSE HE WAS
POWERFUL AND
A VISIONARY.

BUT I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF A CADET NAMED AMELIA. I WANT TO KNOW WHO THIS

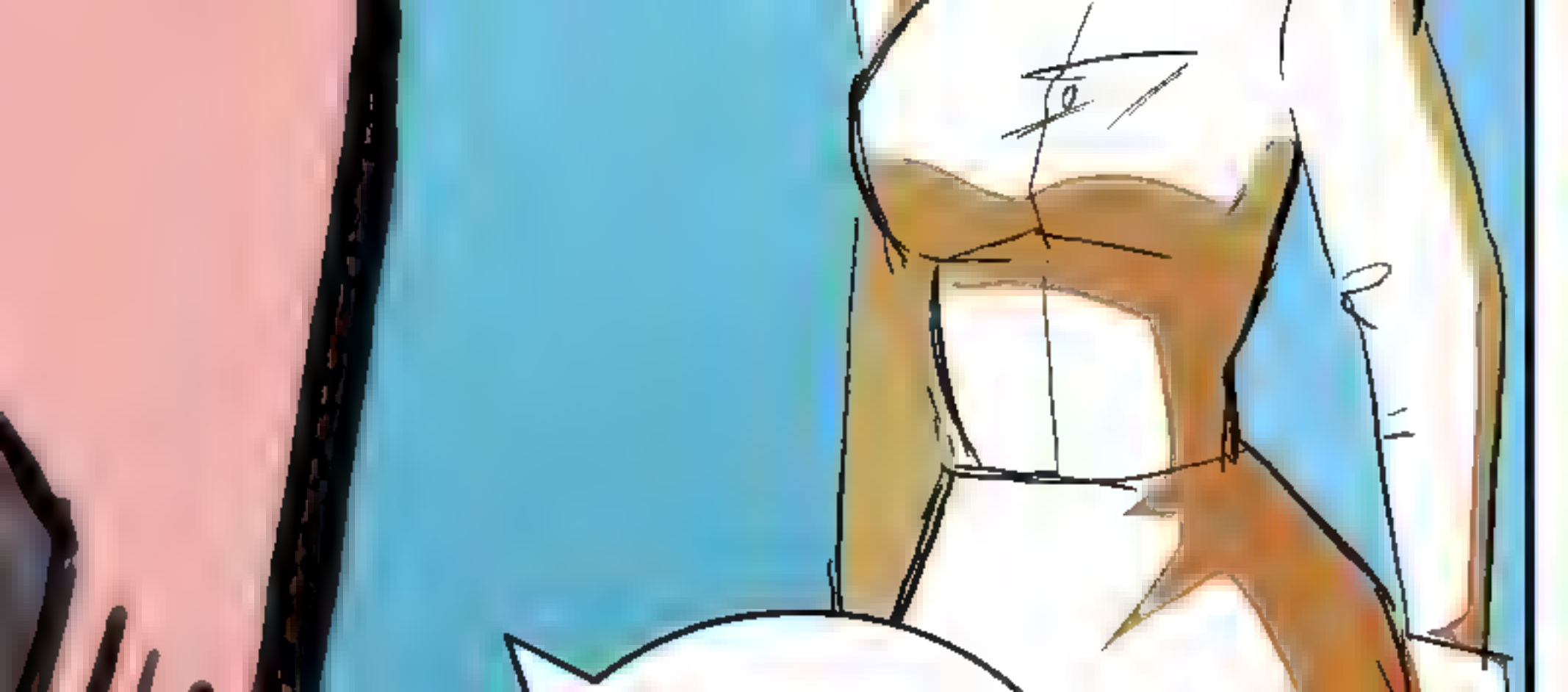
TO KNOW WHO THIS WOMAN WAS AND EXACTLY WHY SHE'S THE FOUNDER IN THIS RECURSION BUT DOESN'T SEEM TO EXIST IN OURS.

MISS COUNTERPART,

I KNOW THE VSC HAS VERY RIGOROUS BACKGROUND CHECKS AND INVESTIGATIONS TO ALL CANDIDATES BEFORE ANYONE IS OFFICIALLY ADMITTED AS A PART OF THE VSC.


WHAT INFO
CAN YOU SHARE
WITH US ABOUT

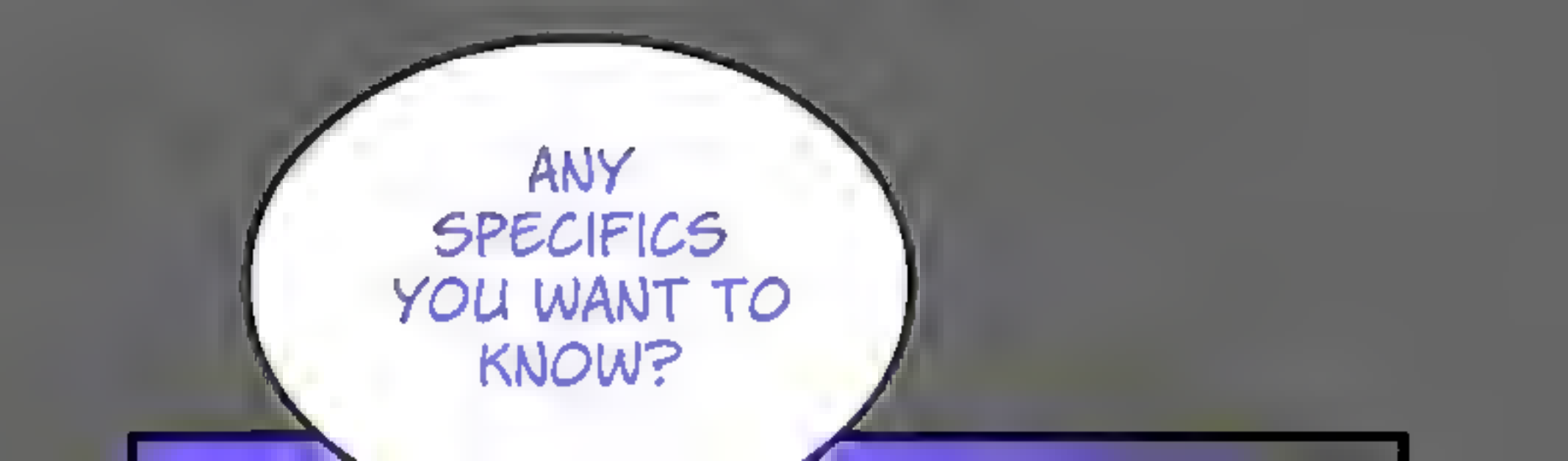
AMELIA?

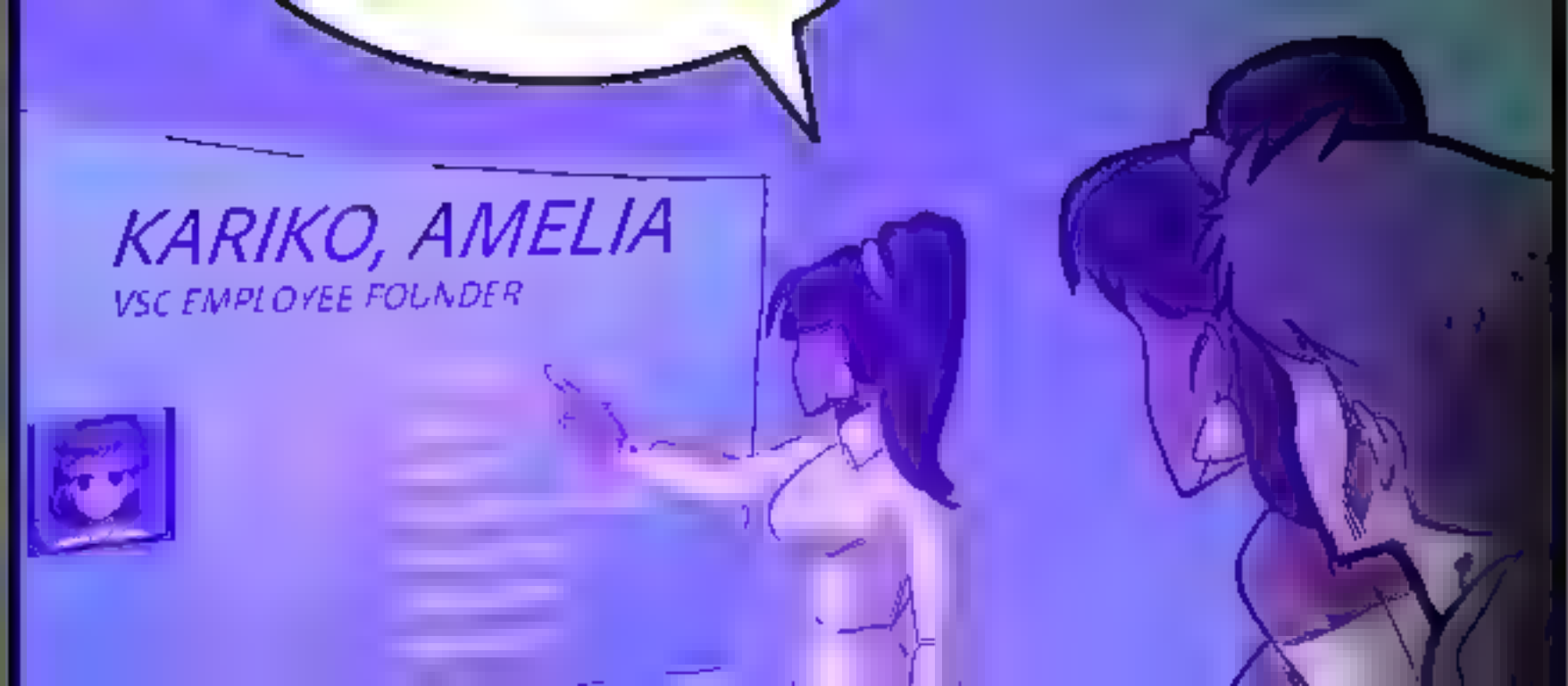


WHO IS
SHE REALLY?
WHERE IS SHE
FROM?

NO PROBLEM.
TAP!

CHAPTER 173
"SCENES FROM"
A MEMORY
STORY/ART: TOONIMATED


ANY SPECIFICS YOU WANT TO KNOW?


KARIKO, AMELIA
VSC EMPLOYEE FOUNDER

LETS

START WITH
EARLY LIFE.

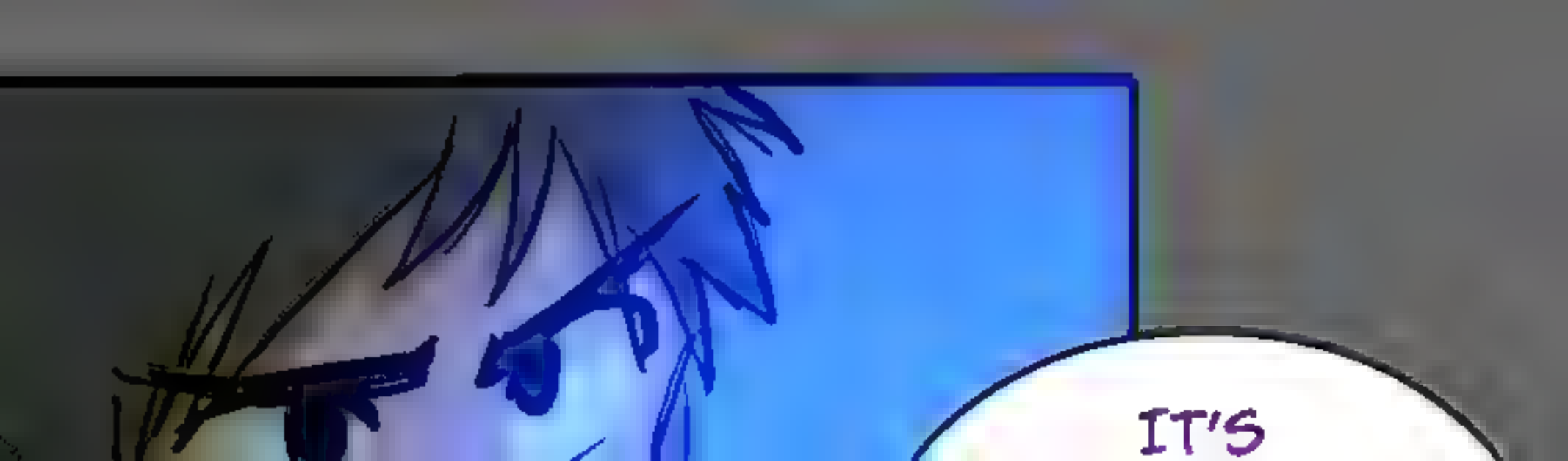
*Early Life*

*Career*

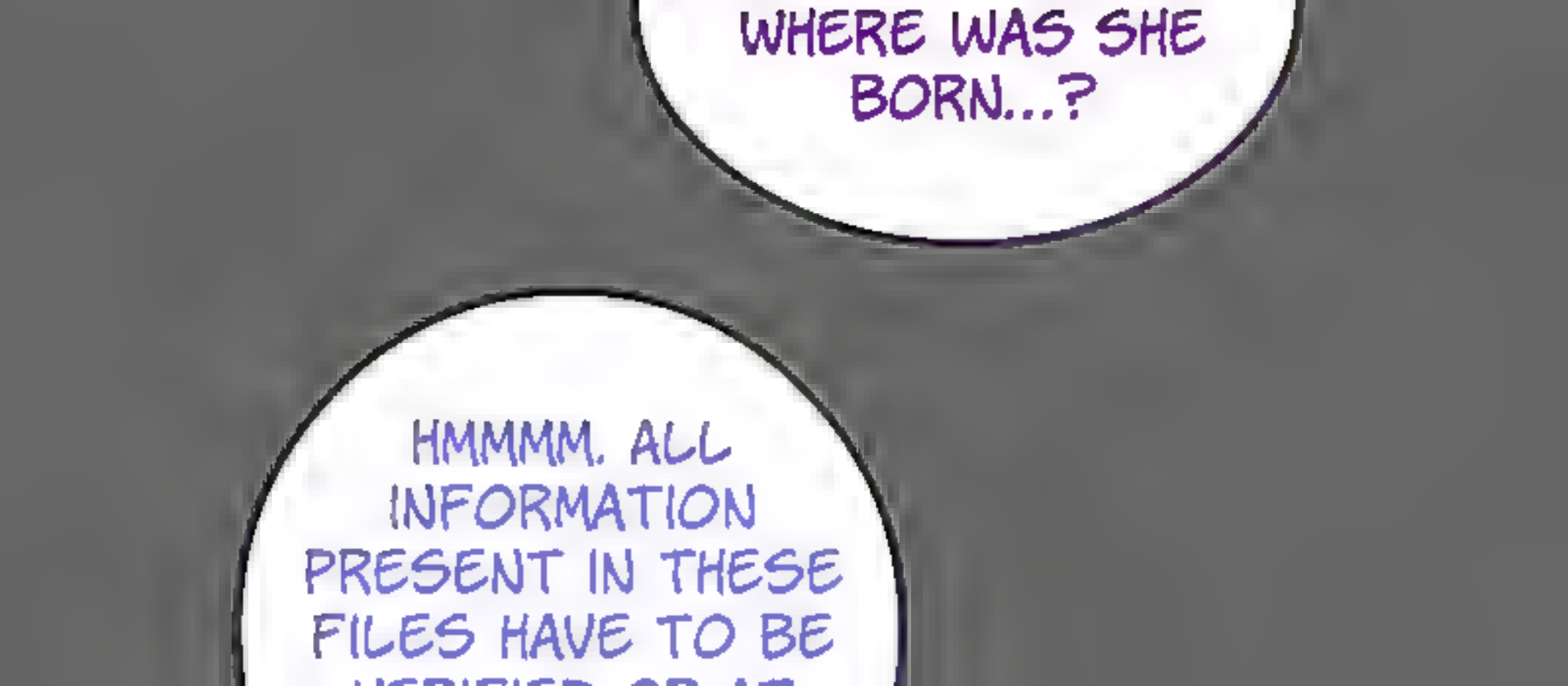
AMELIA KARIKO

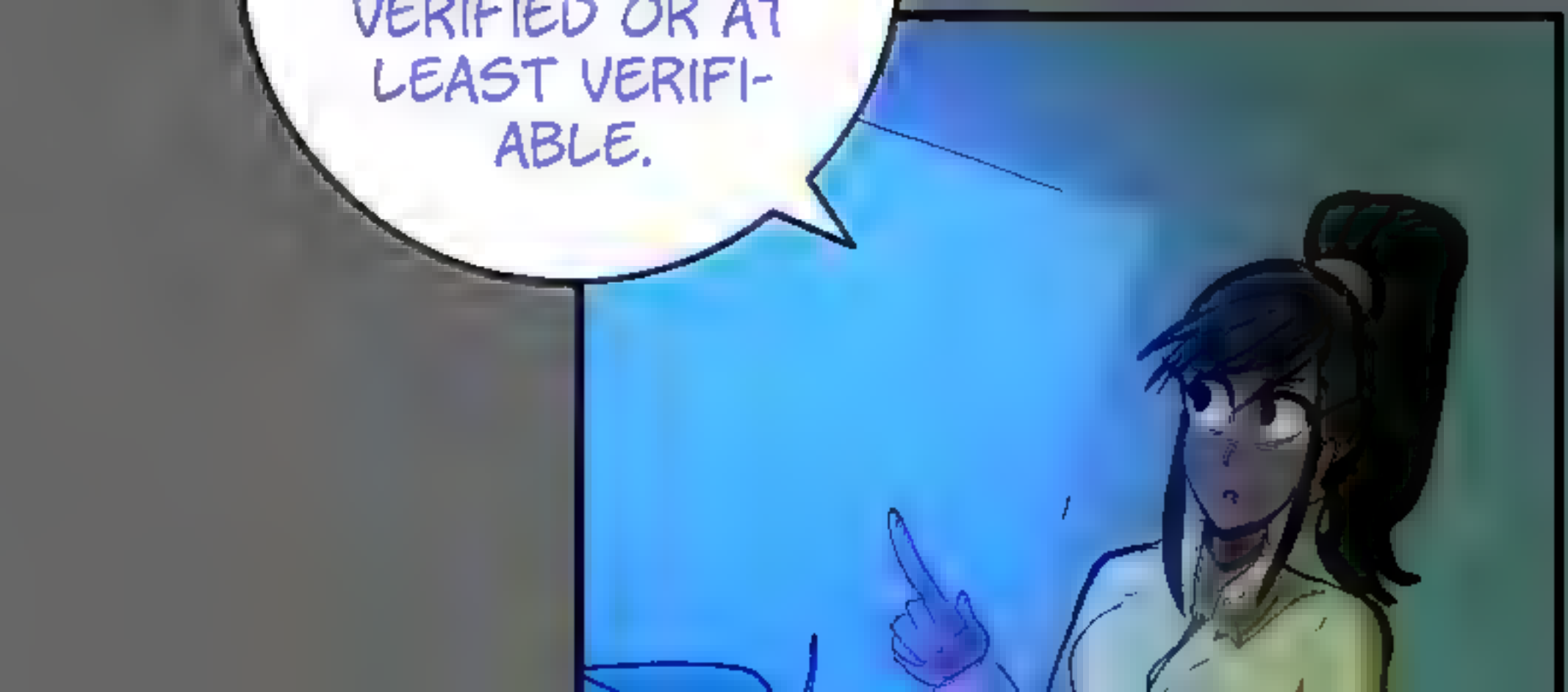
# EARLY LIFE

BONTE_48 · COMPLETE

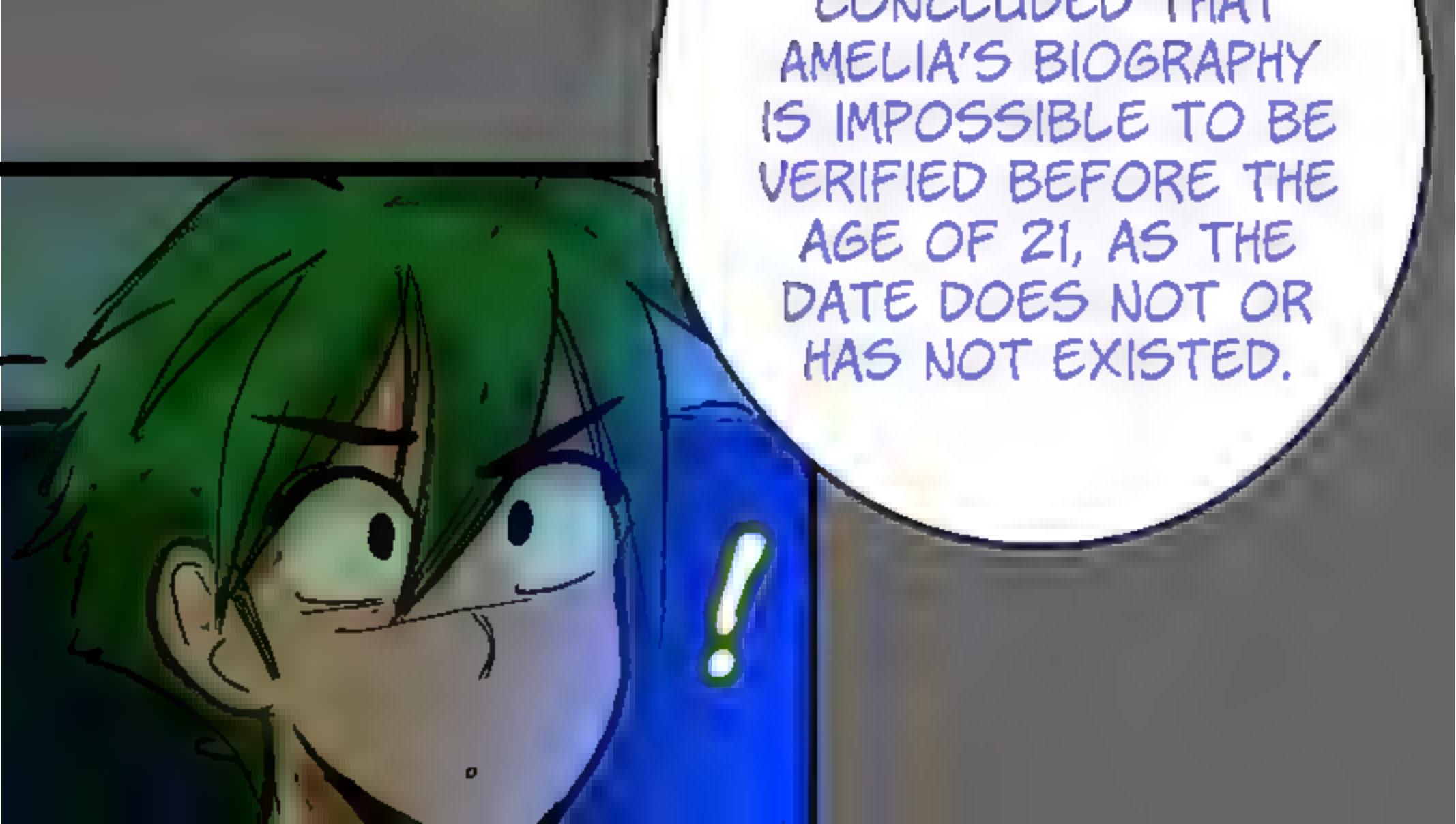

IT'S

INCOMPLETE. IT ONLY HAS INFO AFTER 21 YEARS OF AGE.
WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE THAT?


WHERE WAS SHE BORN...?
HMMMM. ALL INFORMATION PRESENT IN THESE FILES HAVE TO BE


VERIFIED OR AT LEAST VERIFI-ABLE.

IF IT'S INCOMPLETE, THE VSC MUST HAVE

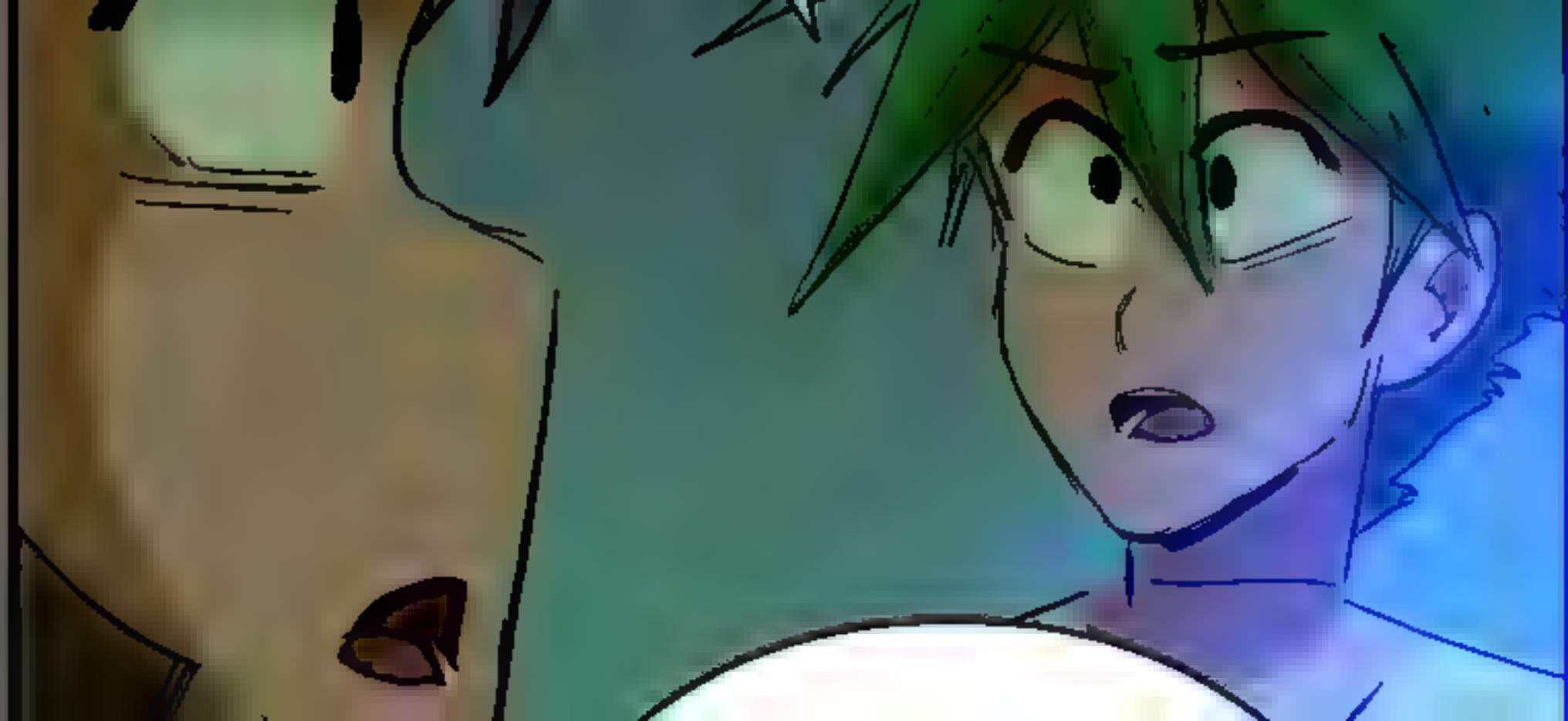

CONCLUDED THAT
AMELIA'S BIOGRAPHY
IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE
VERIFIED BEFORE THE
AGE OF 21, AS THE
DATE DOES NOT OR
HAS NOT EXISTED.
!

SHE COMES FROM OUR RECURSION, 104, DOESN'T SHE!?

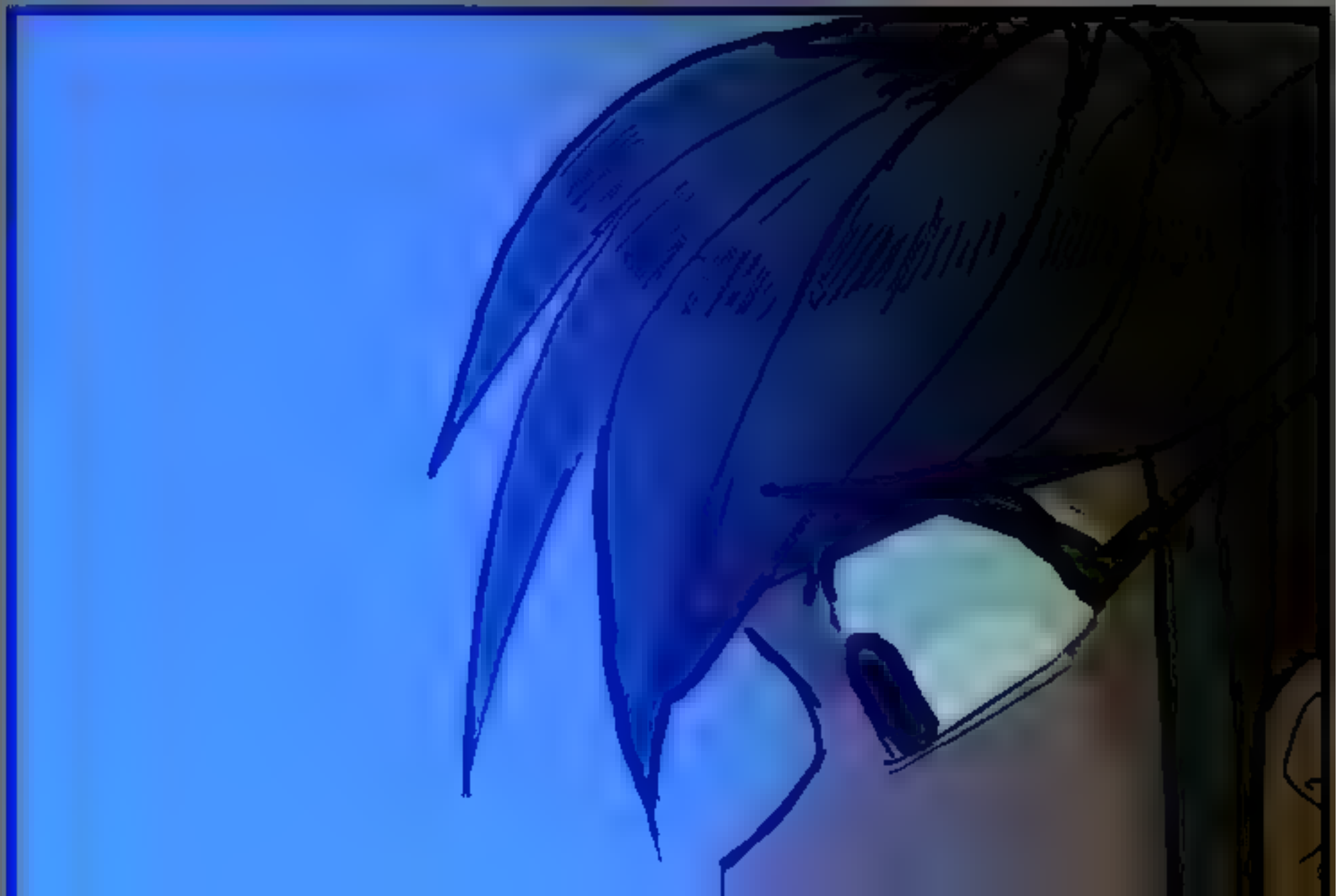
WHAT???

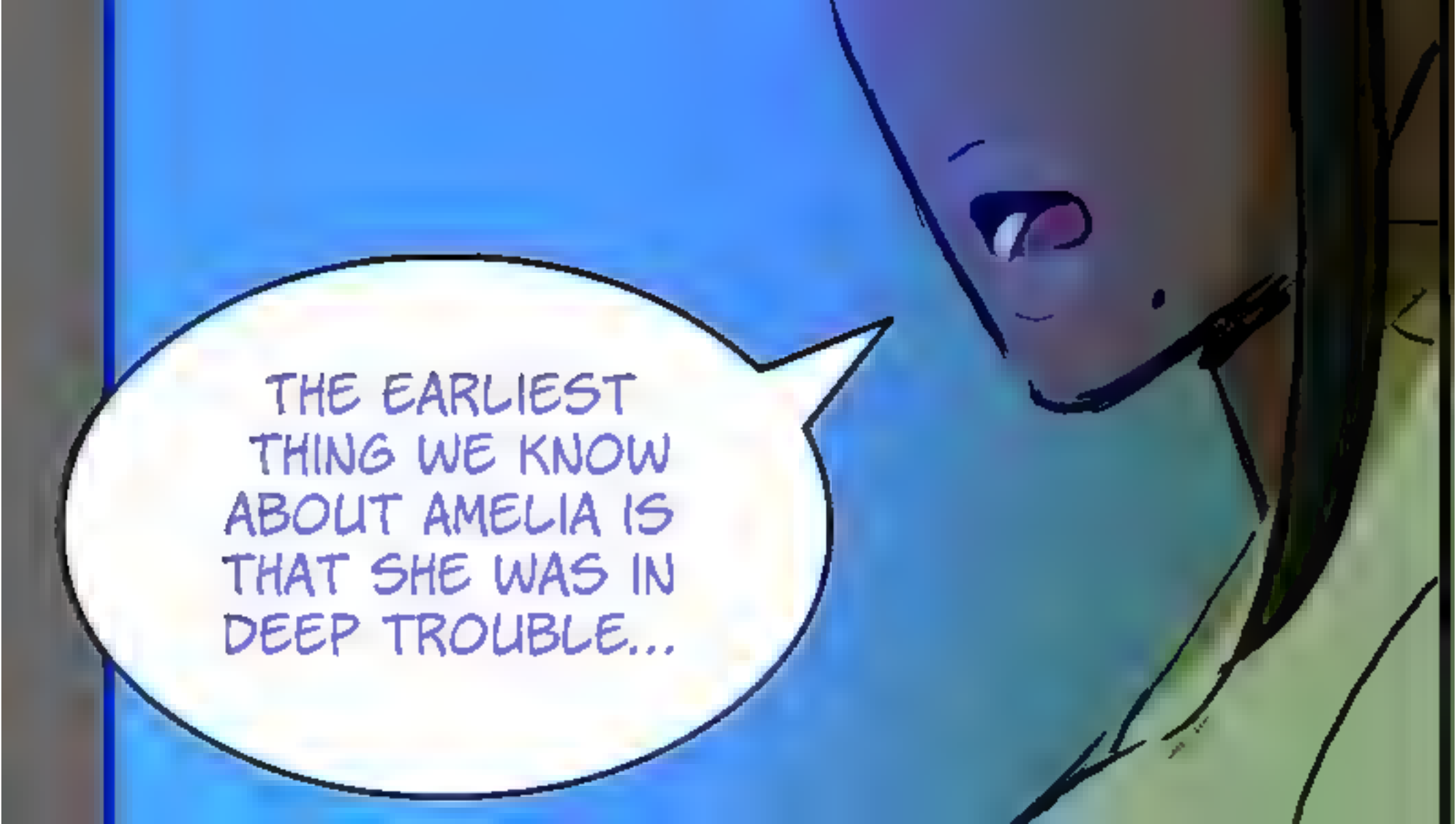
THAT'S ALSO WHY YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF HER, CAPTAIN.

AMELIA MUST HAVE JUMPED BEFORE SHE TURNED 21, AND YOU NEVER GOT TO MEET HER.



LET'S TEST THAT THEORY. MISS COUNTERPART, WHAT'S THE EARLIEST THING THE VSC KNOWS ABOUT AMELIA?



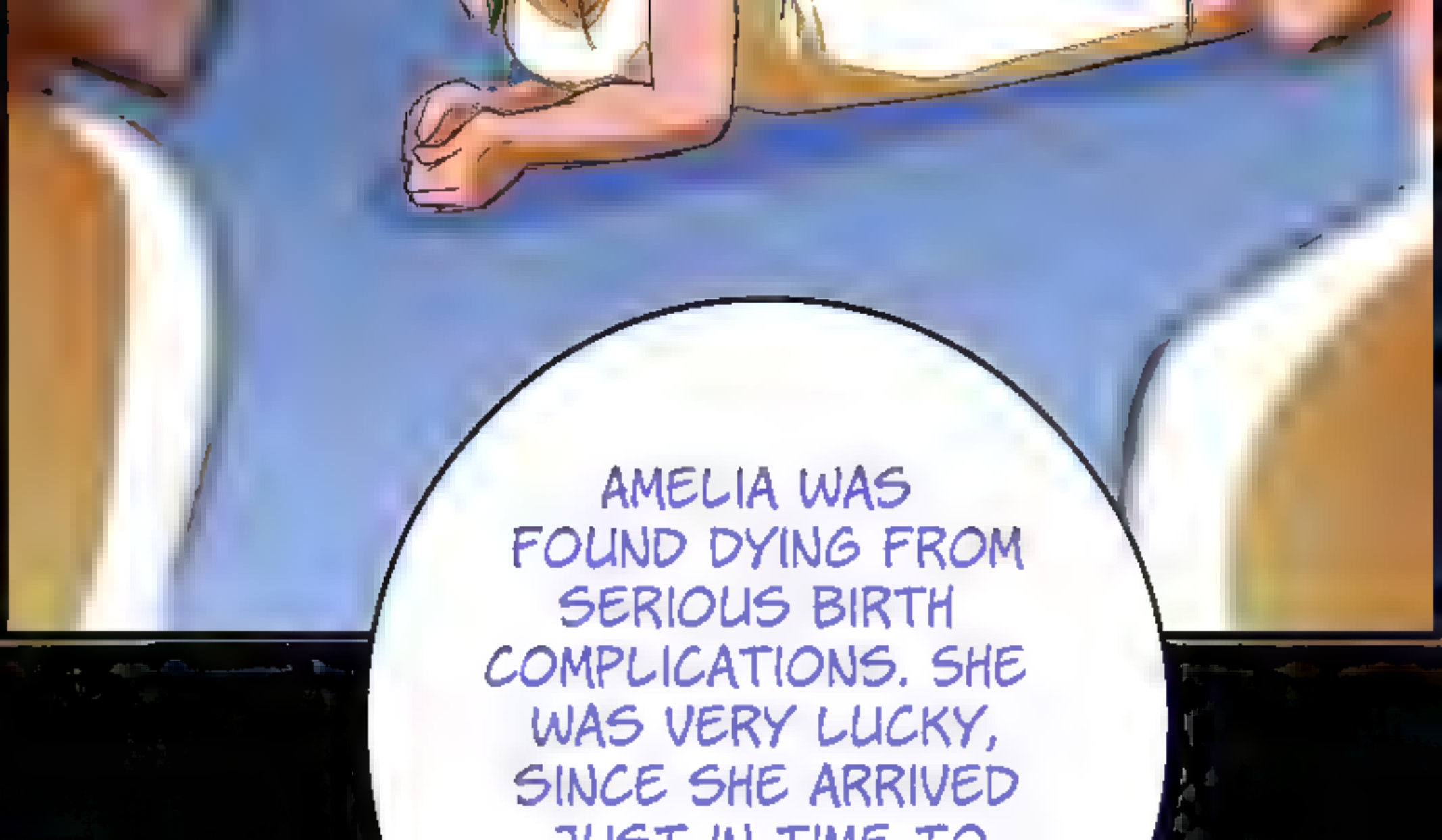

THE EARLIEST THING WE KNOW ABOUT AMELIA IS THAT SHE WAS IN DEEP TROUBLE...

BACK WHEN
WE WERE JUST

AS RESEARCH LAB
STUDYING TIME TRAVEL
AND ANOMALIES, SHE
INEXPLICABLY APPEARED
IN A HOSPITAL ROOM IN
OUR FACILITY.

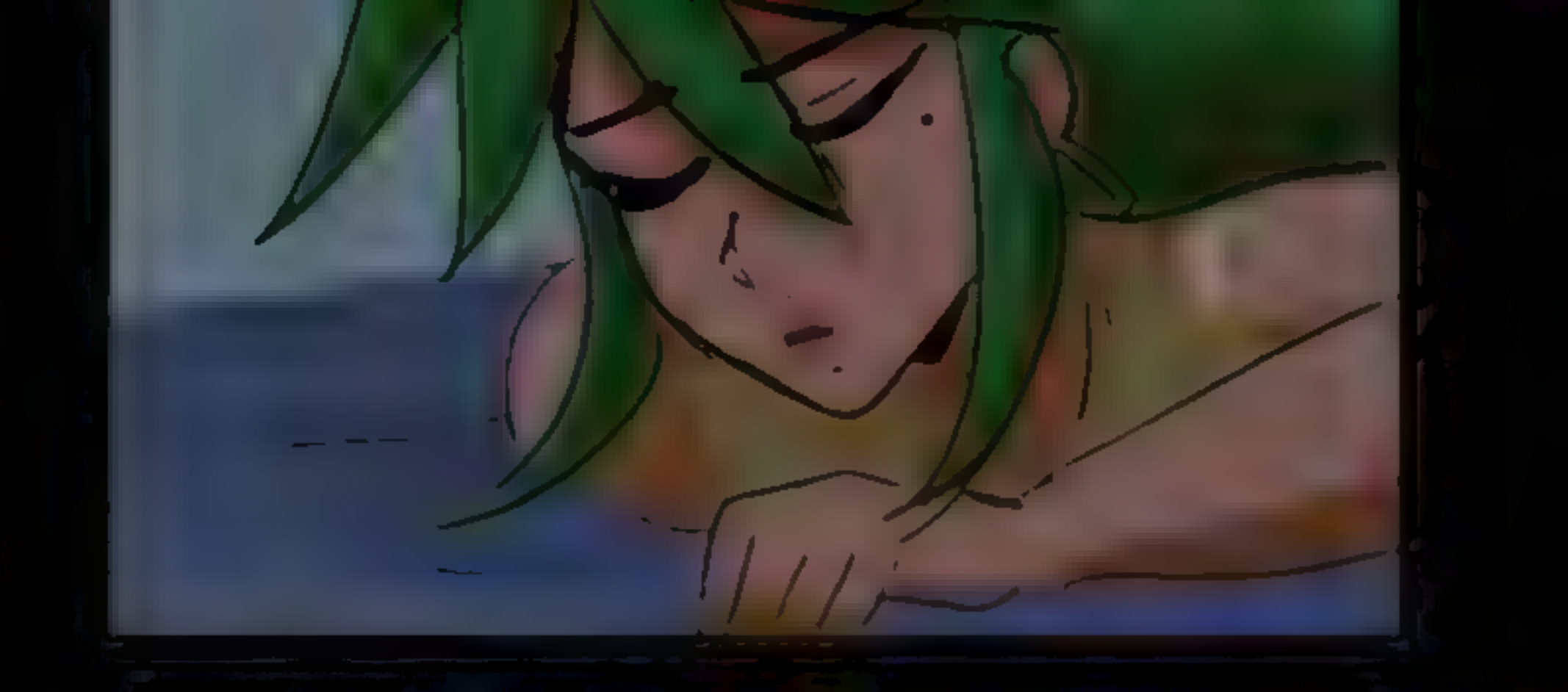
WHICH WAS ODD, CONSIDERING THAT OUR FACILITY WAS KEPT TOP SECRET AND GETTING IN UNDETECTED WAS DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

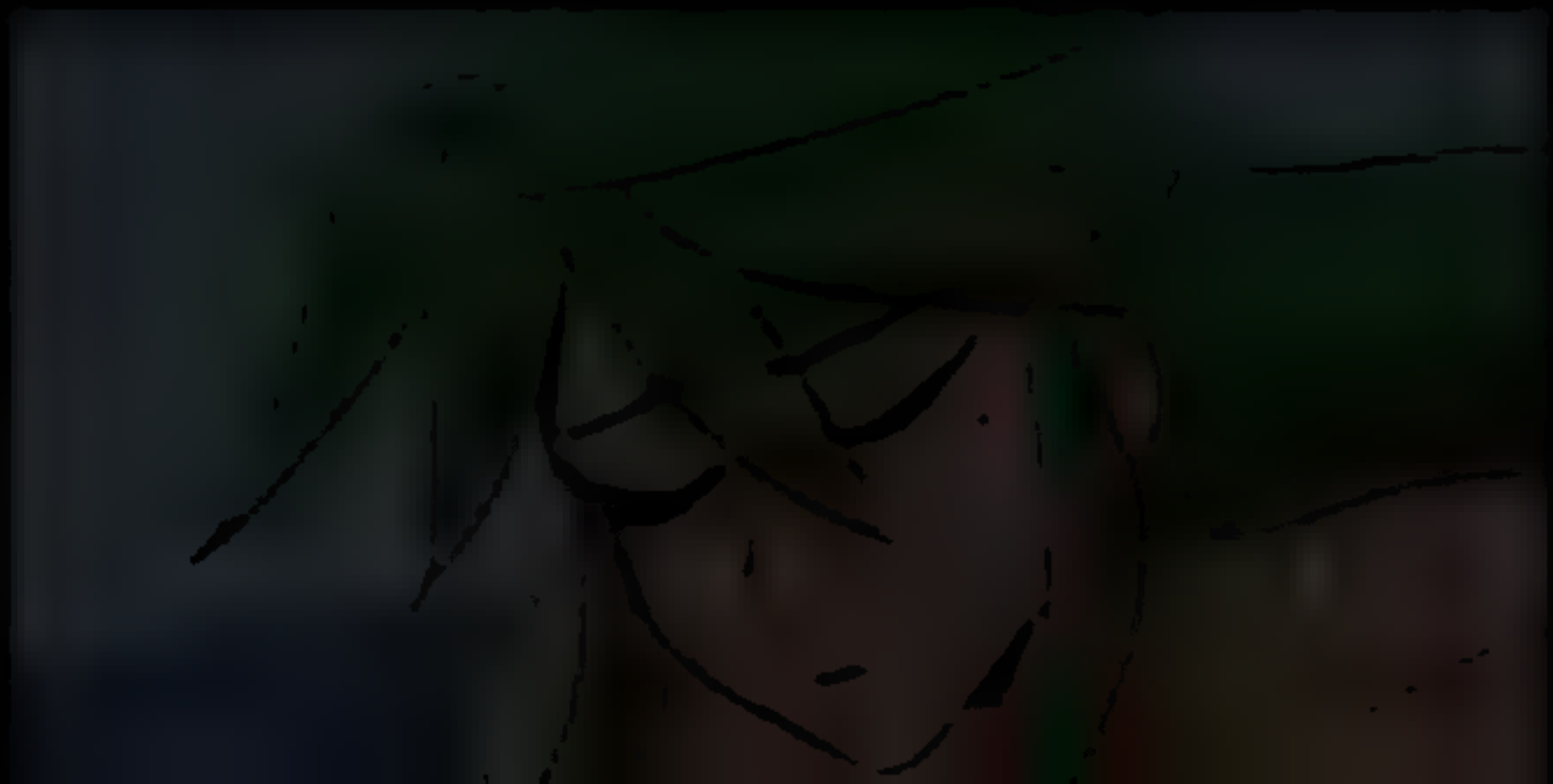
AAH!


AMELIA WAS FOUND DYING FROM SERIOUS BIRTH COMPLICATIONS. SHE WAS VERY LUCKY, SINCE SHE ARRIVED

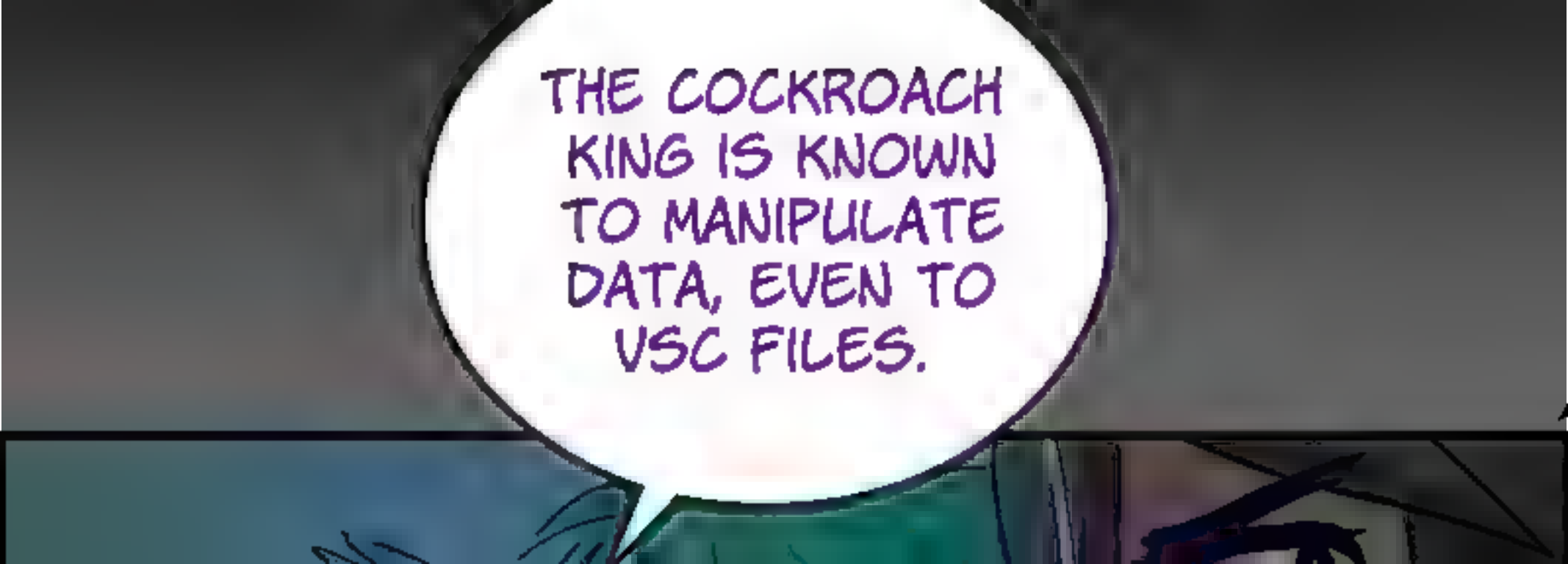
JUST IN TIME TO
GET THE HELP
SHE NEEDED.

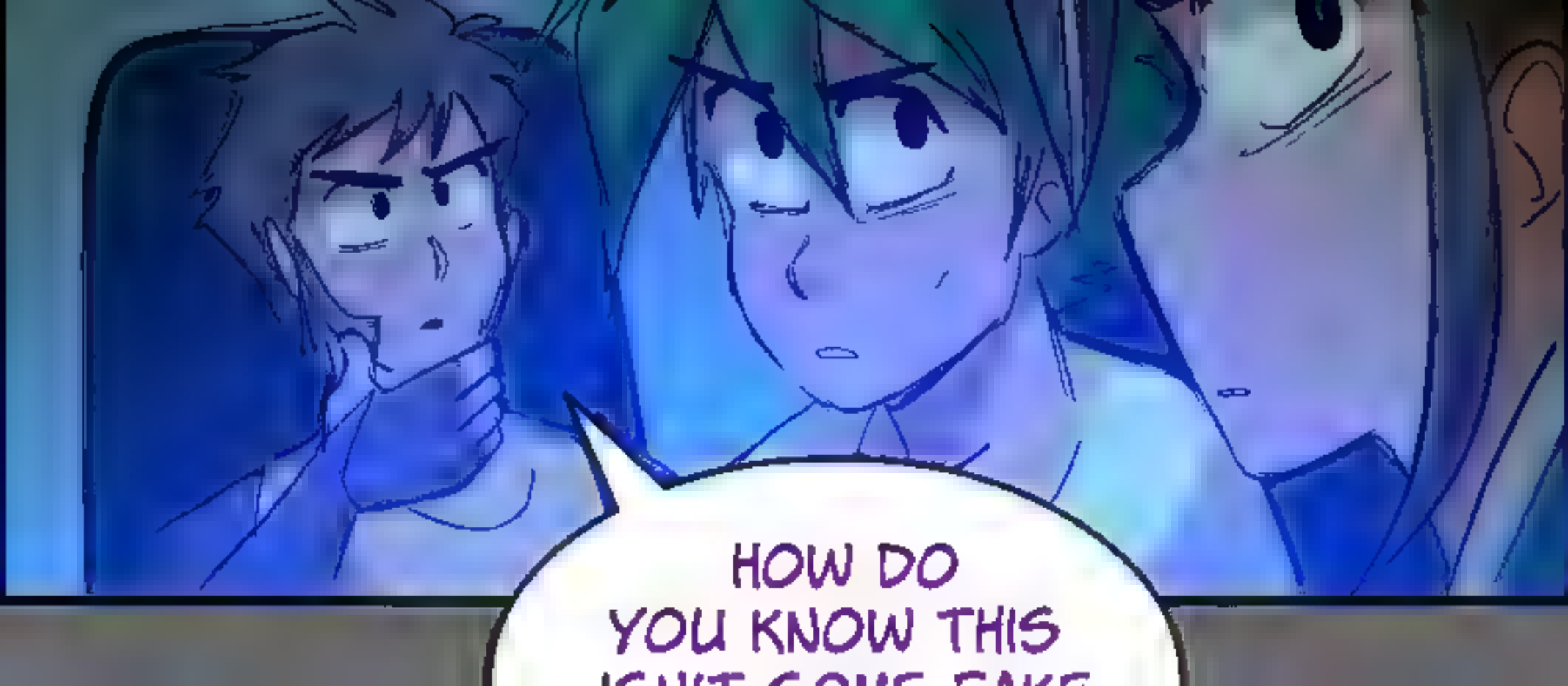
H-HELP
PLEASE!





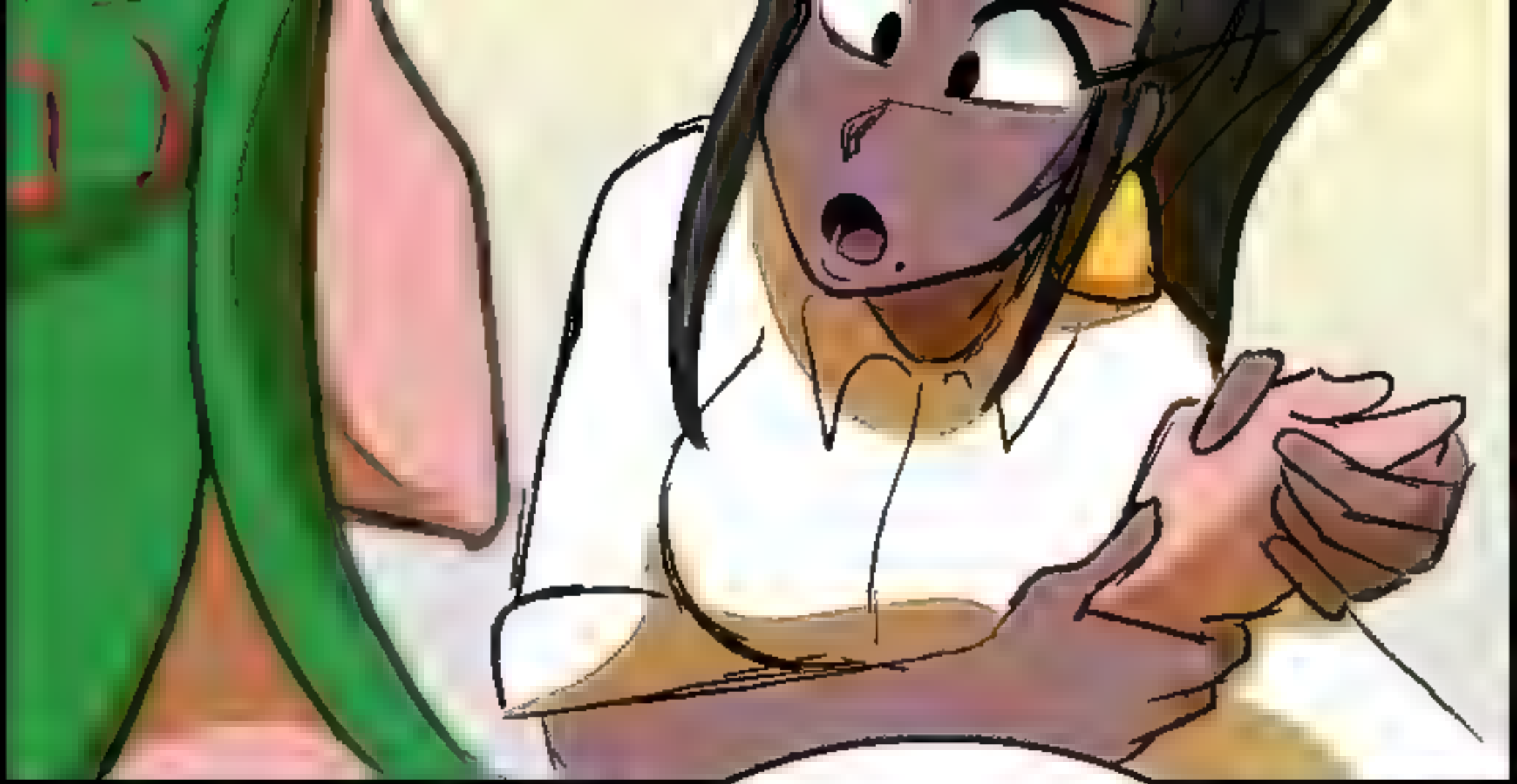
SHE WAS SIMPLY IN THE RIGHT PLACE IN THE RIGHT TIME.


THE COCKROACH KING IS KNOWN TO MANIPULATE DATA, EVEN TO VSC FILES.

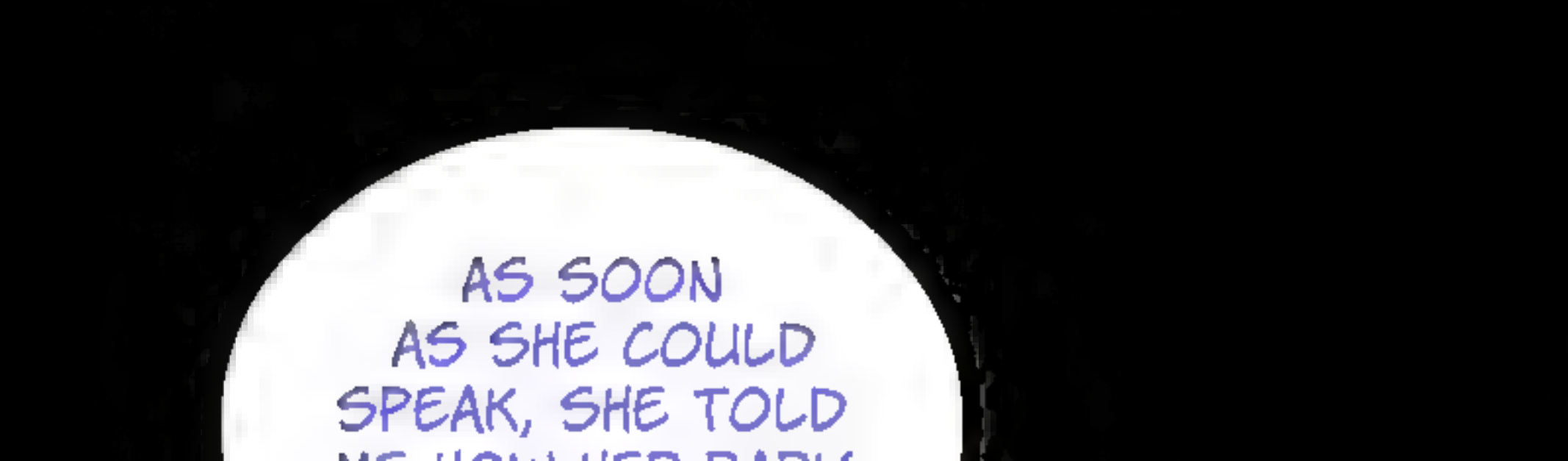

HOW DO
YOU KNOW THIS

ISN'T SOME FAKE STORY?
IS THE PERSON WHO VERIFIED THIS TRUSTWORTHY?

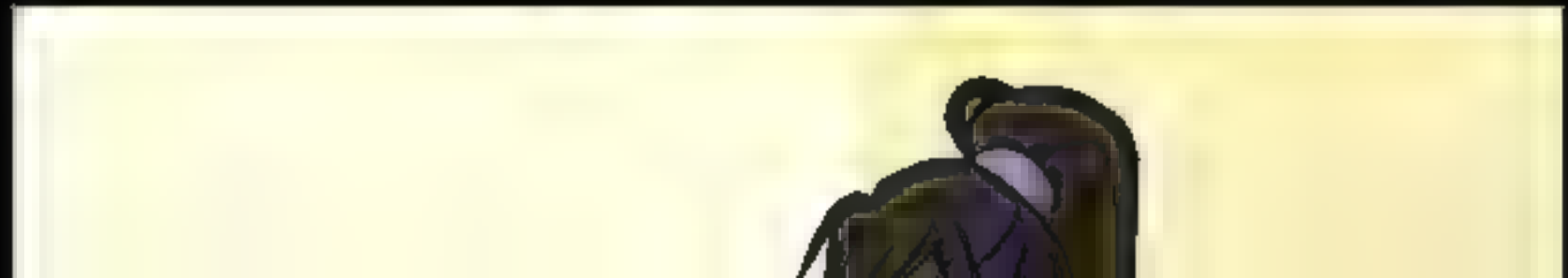
I KNOW
THIS HAPPENED
BECAUSE
I WAS
THERE.

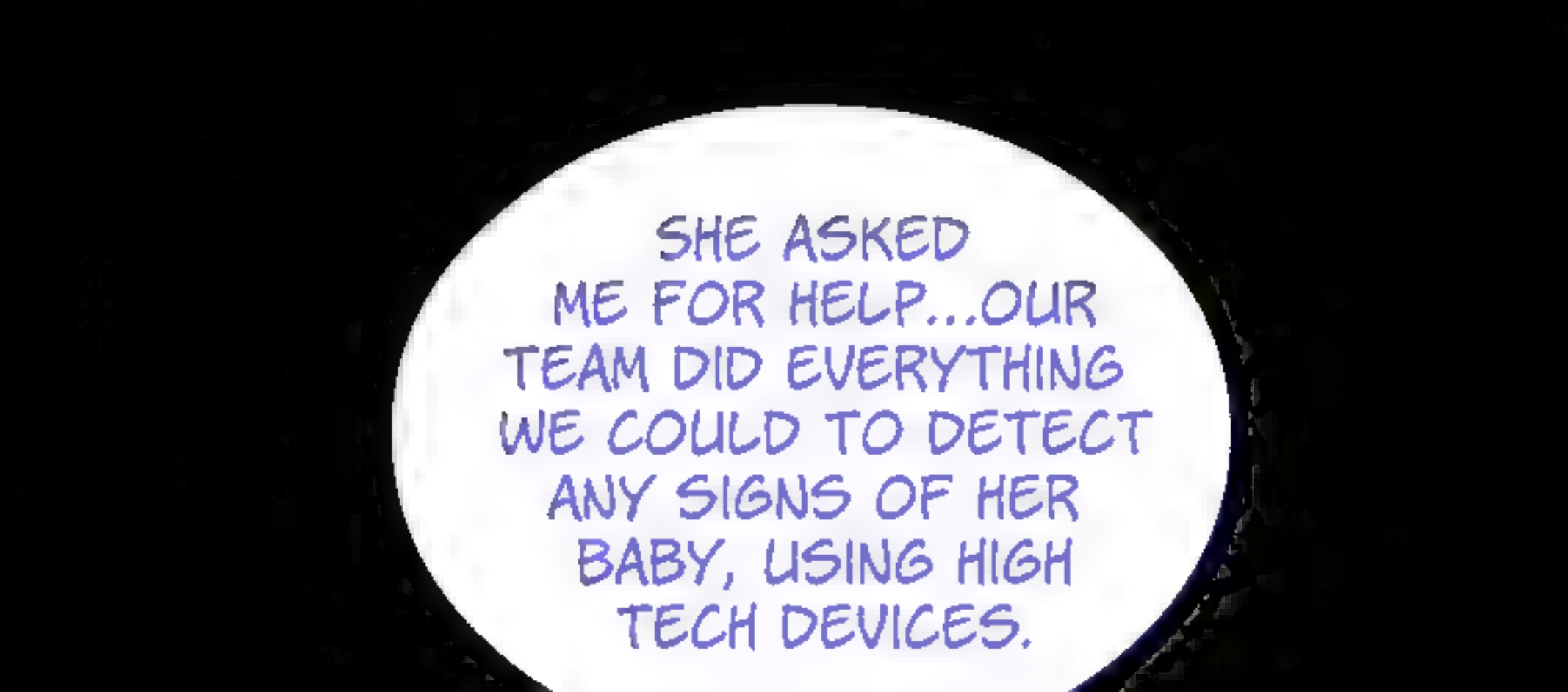

AMELIA

ENTERED IN CRITICAL CONDITION BUT GIVEN TIME, MEDICINE, AND QUITE A FEW KISSES, SHE SLOWLY RECOVERED.

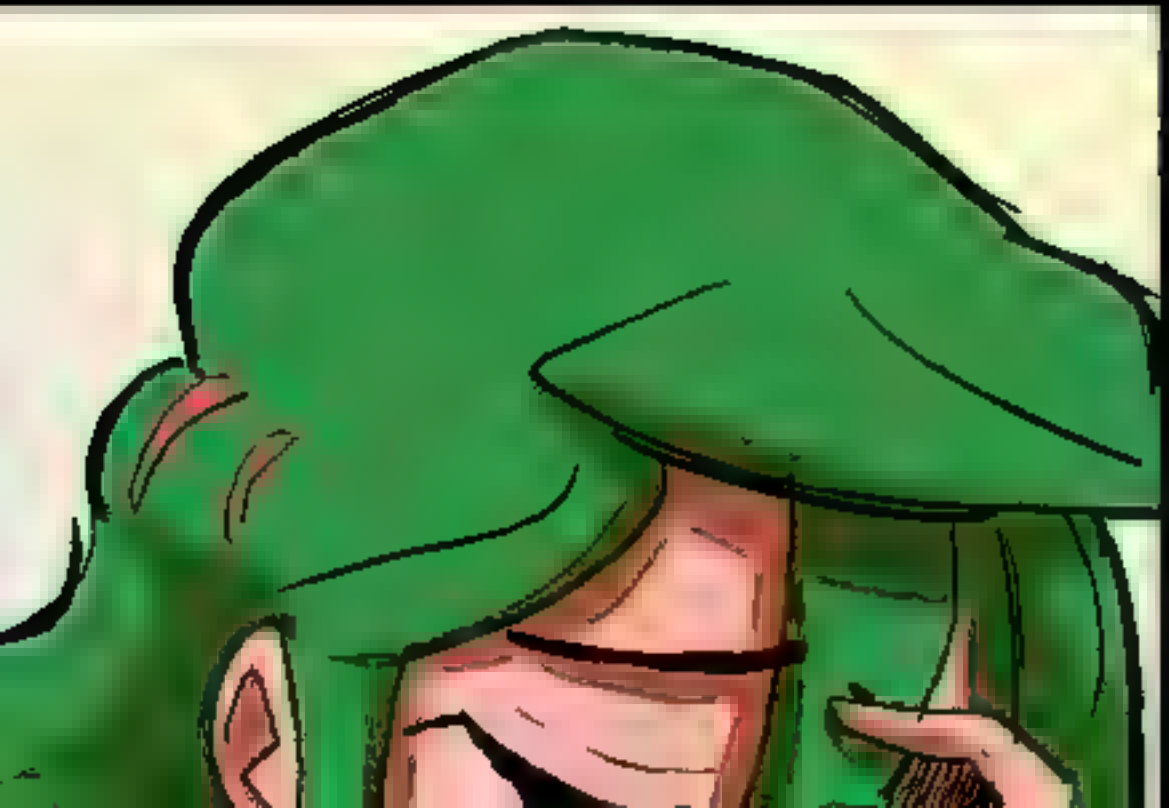

AS SOON
AS SHE COULD
SPEAK, SHE TOLD

ME HOW HER BABY
WENT MISSING.

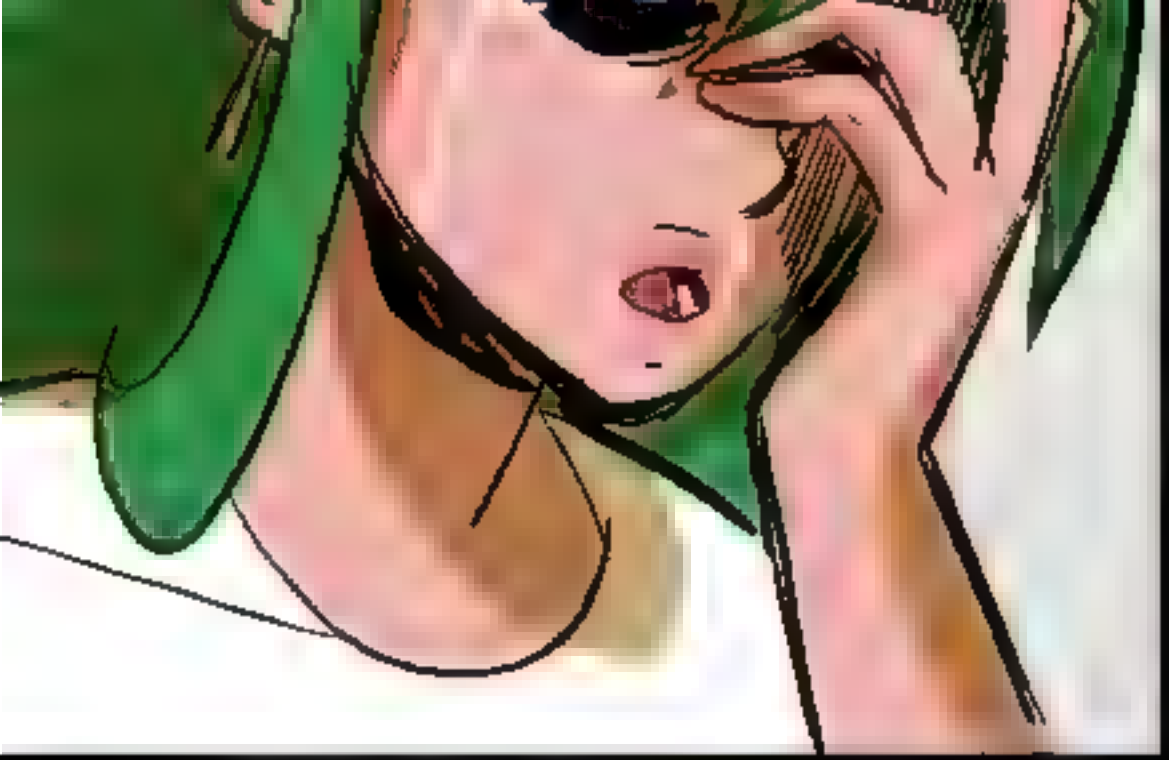



SHE ASKED ME FOR HELP...OUR TEAM DID EVERYTHING WE COULD TO DETECT ANY SIGNS OF HER BABY, USING HIGH TECH DEVICES.

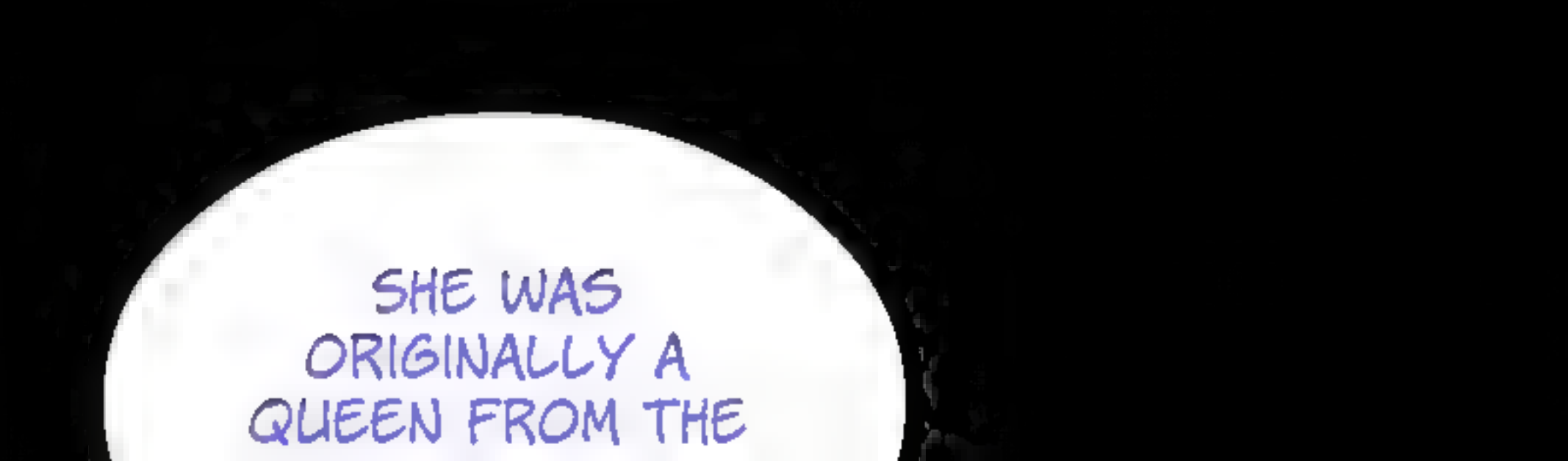
BUT WE LEARNED IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET HER BABY BACK...



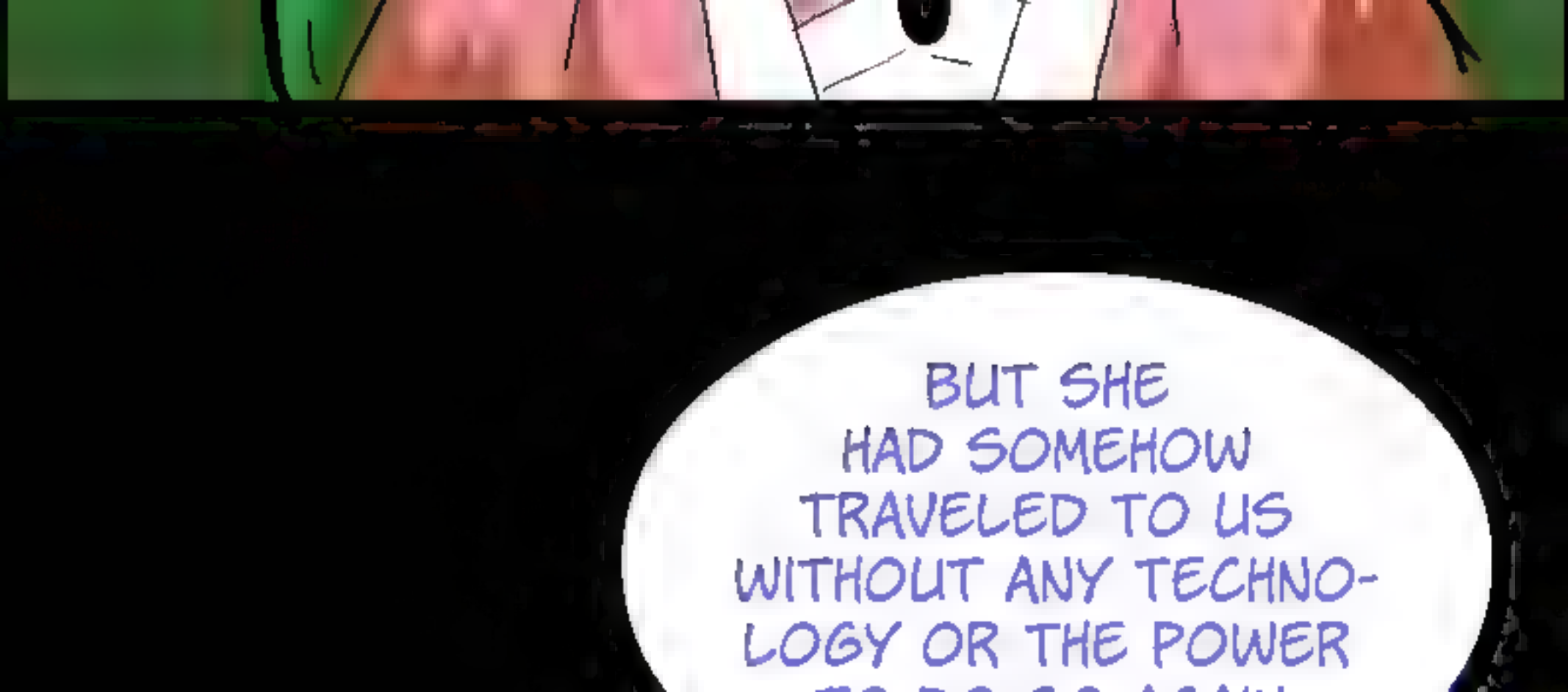
AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE AN ANOMALY HAD



ANOTHER HAD HAPPENED TO AMELIA


SHE WAS
ORIGINALLY A
QUEEN FROM THE

1100S...

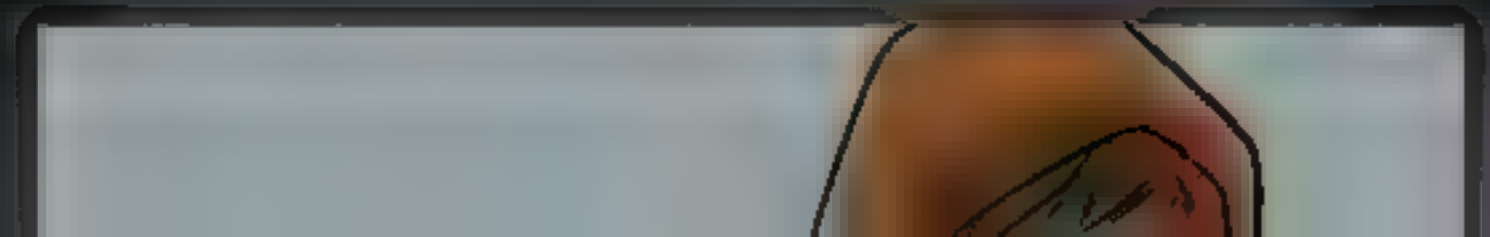

BUT SHE HAD SOMEHOW TRAVELED TO US WITHOUT ANY TECHNO-LOGY OR THE POWER

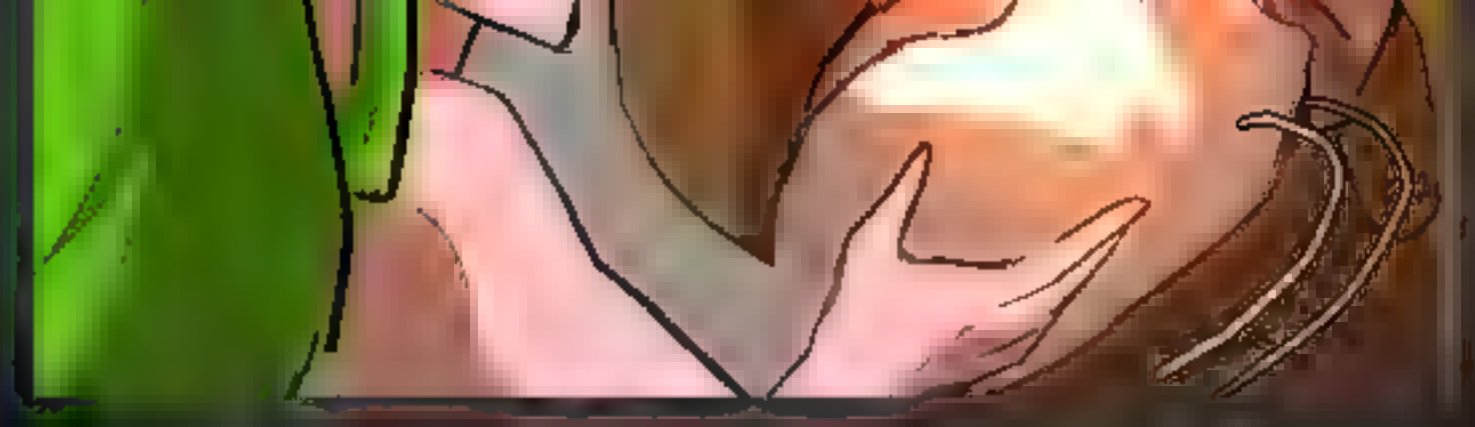
TO DO SO AGAIN.

WE ASKED
AMELIA TO TELL

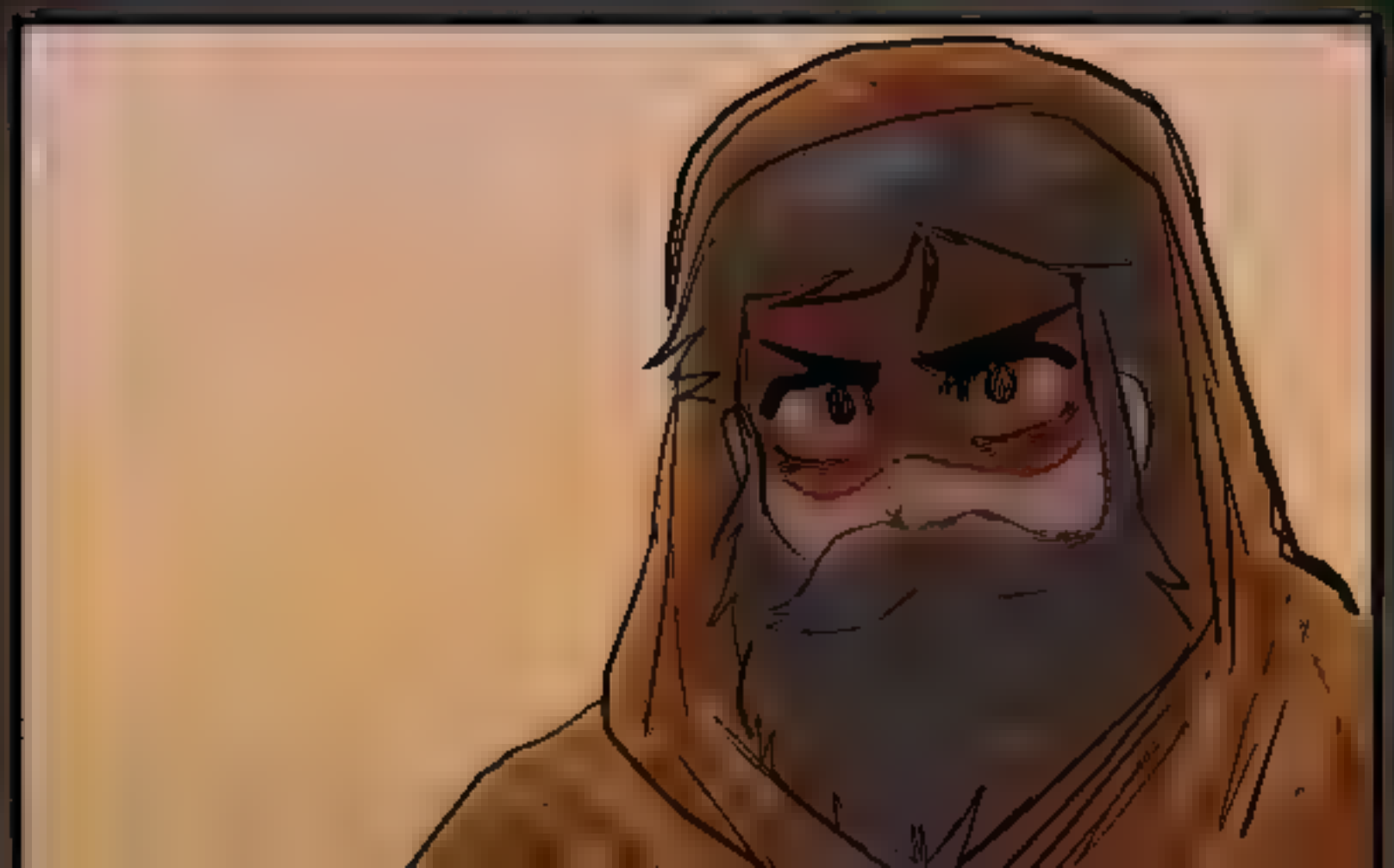
US EVERYTHING SHE
COULD REMEMBER. SHE
TOLD US THAT...

...DAYS AGO
SHE GAVE BIRTH TO
HER BABY... BUT JUST
AFTER HE WAS BORN...
HE WAS STOLEN BY
A MYSTERIOUS
SORCERER.



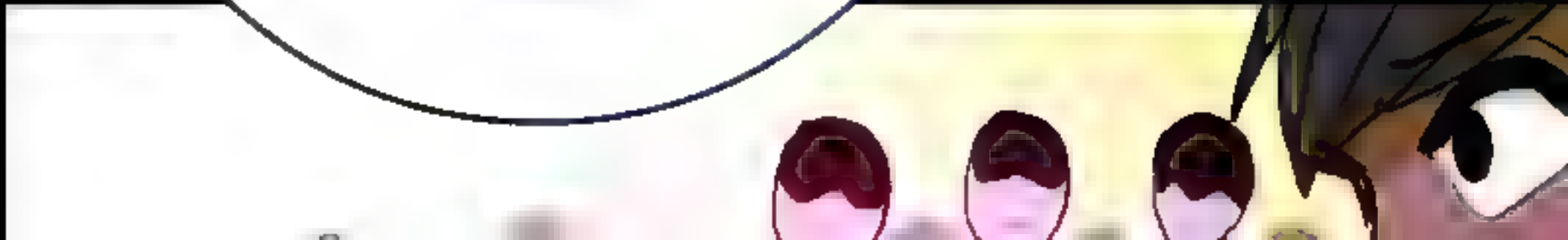


SHE TOLD
US HOW HE LOOKED
IN GREAT DETAIL. SOON
AFTER HE LEFT, SHE
BEGAN HAVING POST BIRTH
COMPLICATIONS. THEN
BEFORE SHE KNEW WHAT
HAPPENED, SHE WAS
FOUND HERE.

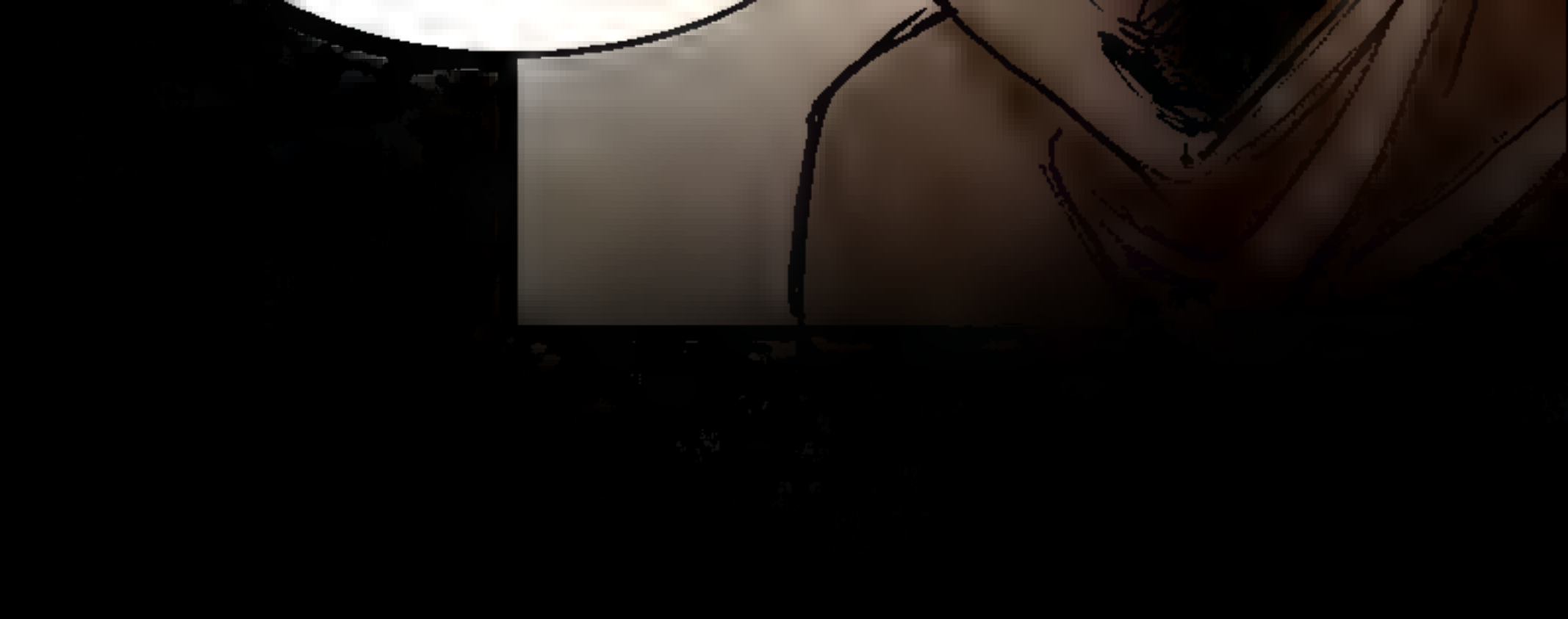


WE REVEALED

TO AMELIA OUR MISSION TO RESEARCH ANOMALIES, AS WELL AS THE RECENT AND DANGEROUS DISCOVERY OF DEFIANTS: PEOPLE WITH SUPER NATURAL POWERS THAT WOULD USE IT FOR THEIR OWN GAIN.



QUEEN AMELIA UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SORCERER WAS ACTUALLY ONE OF THOSE DANGER-OUS ENTITIES.



WE SAW
GREAT POTENTIAL

IN AMELIA, SO WE
RECRUITED HER TO
OUR CAUSE.

VSC

IN TURN,
SHE BECAME A
GREAT LEADER,
SOLIDIFYING OUR
GOALS AND CHANGING
OUR MISSION FROM
RESEARCH TO DEFENSE,
AND FOUNDING THE
VSC ORGANIZATION
AS WE KNOW
IT TODAY.

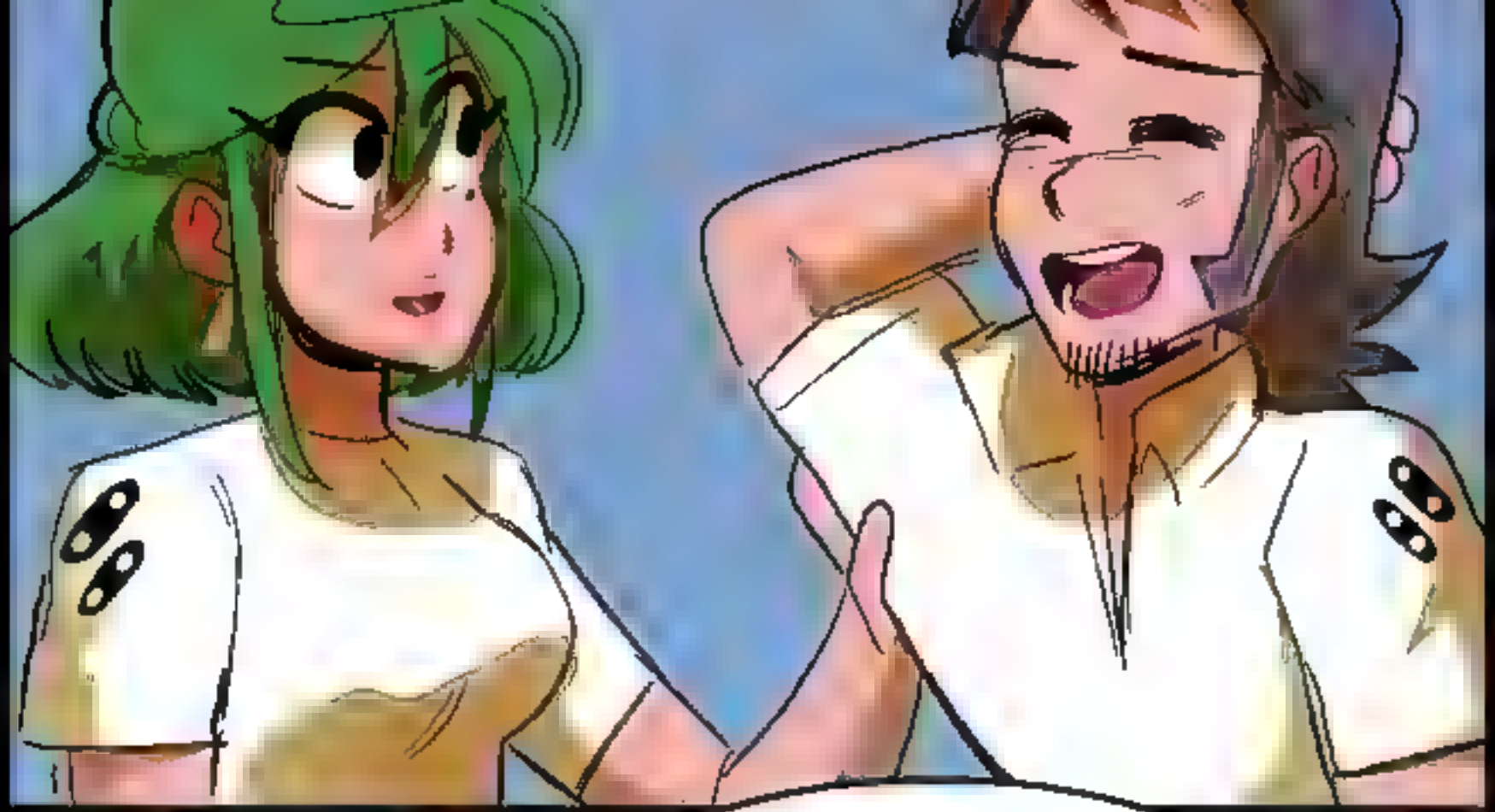
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU HAD TIME

TRAVEL, YOU MUST
HAVE IF YOU WERE
ALREADY EMPLOYED.

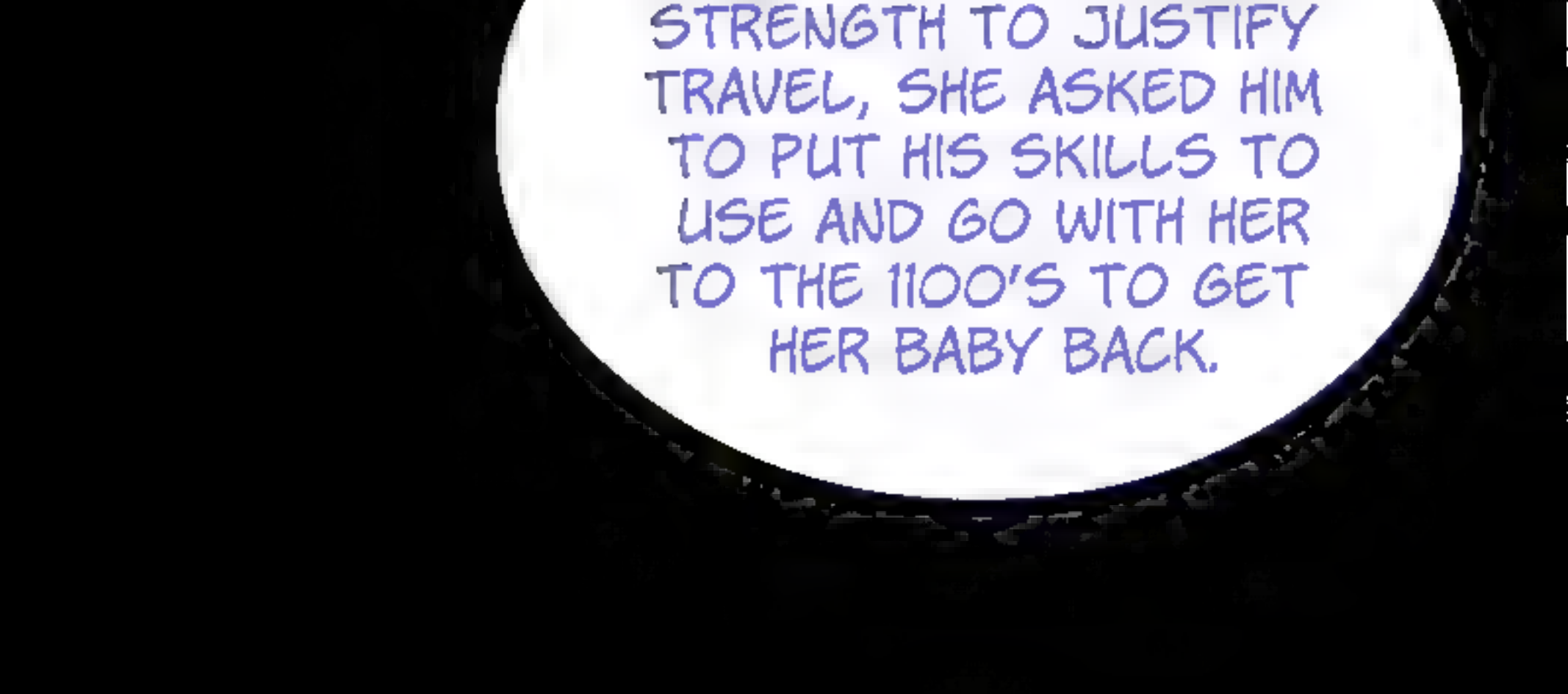
DIDN'T YOU
AT LEAST TRY
TO SEND HER BACK
TO HER TIME? SURELY

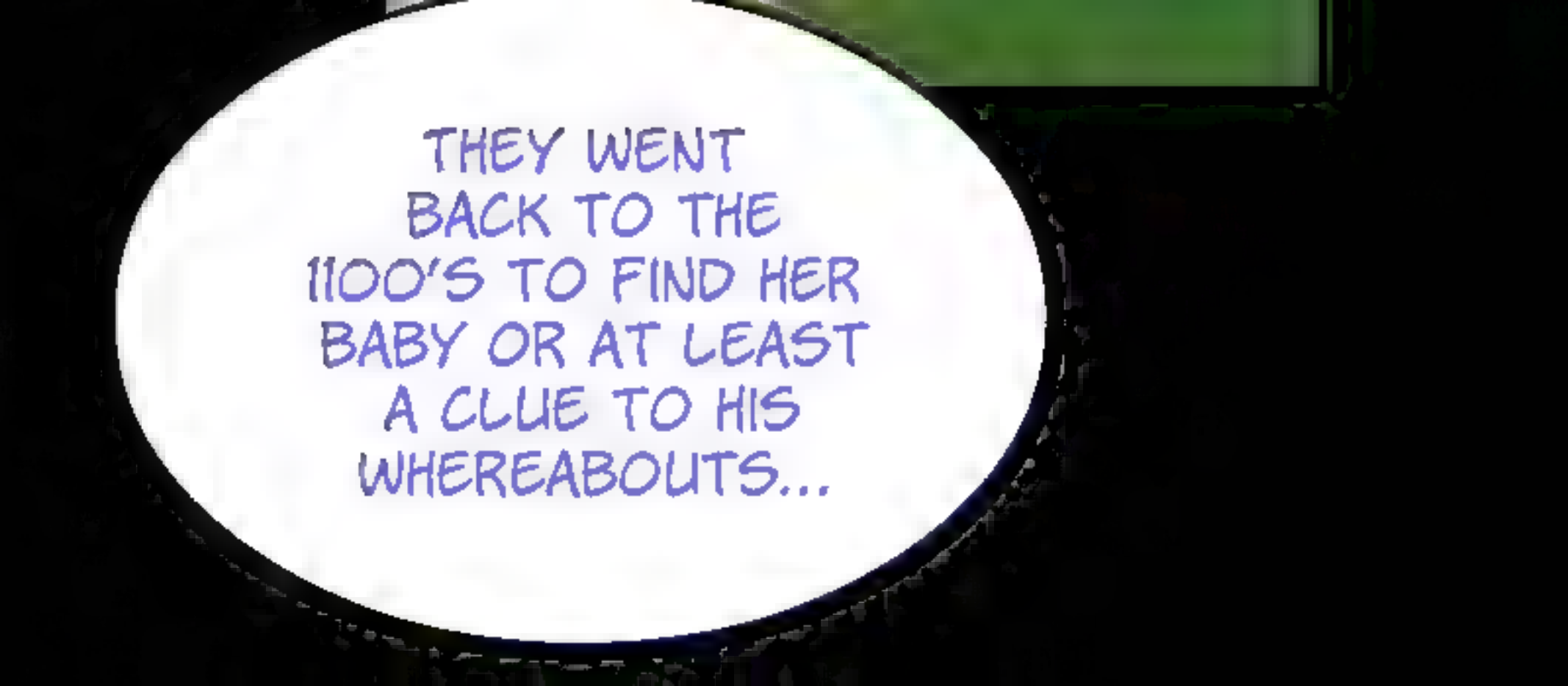
TO HER TIME? SURELY
YOU DIDN'T REALIZE
SHE WAS FROM
ANOTHER RECURSION
AT FIRST.

THAT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS WE TRIED. EARLY INTO HER TIME WITH US, AMELIA MET IRO, A TIME TRAVELER SHE SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE BUT WHO DID NOT RECOGNIZE HER.



WHEN SHE
REGAINED ENOUGH

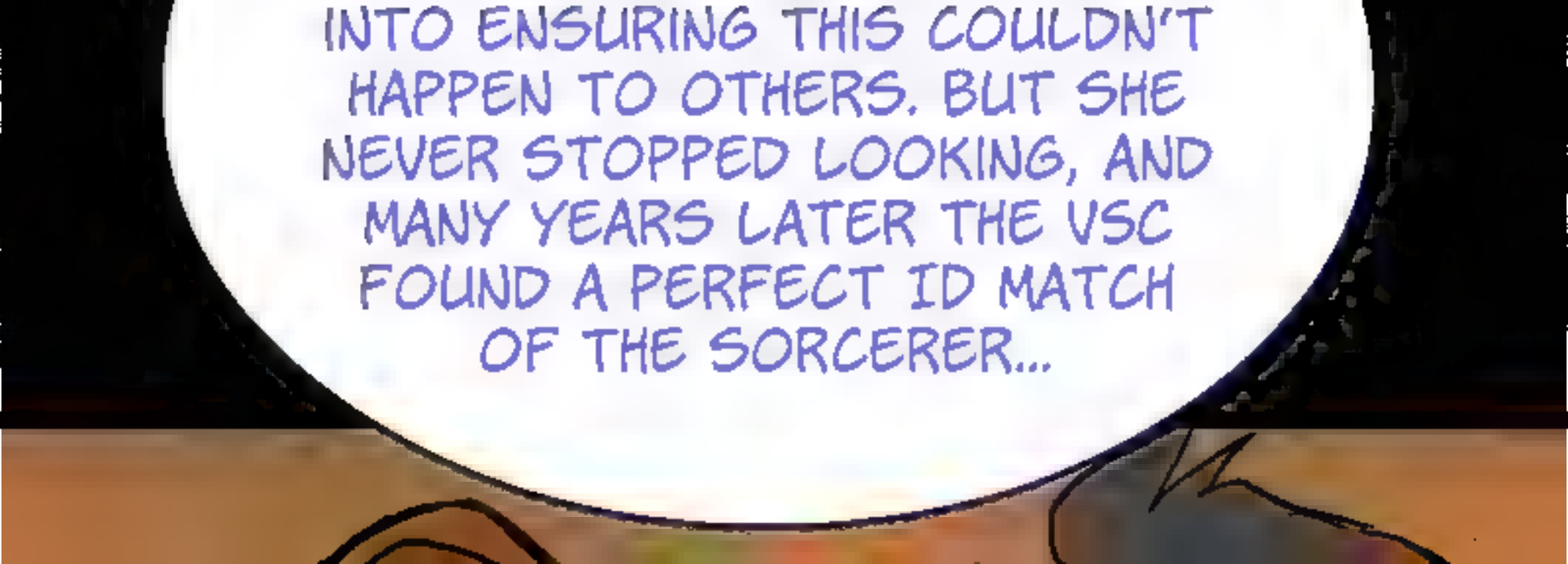

STRENGTH TO JUSTIFY TRAVEL, SHE ASKED HIM TO PUT HIS SKILLS TO USE AND GO WITH HER TO THE 1100'S TO GET HER BABY BACK.


THEY WENT
BACK TO THE
1100'S TO FIND HER
BABY OR AT LEAST
A CLUE TO HIS
WHEREABOUTS...

ONLY TO GET
FRUSTRATED...THINGS
WERE DIFFERENT. THERE

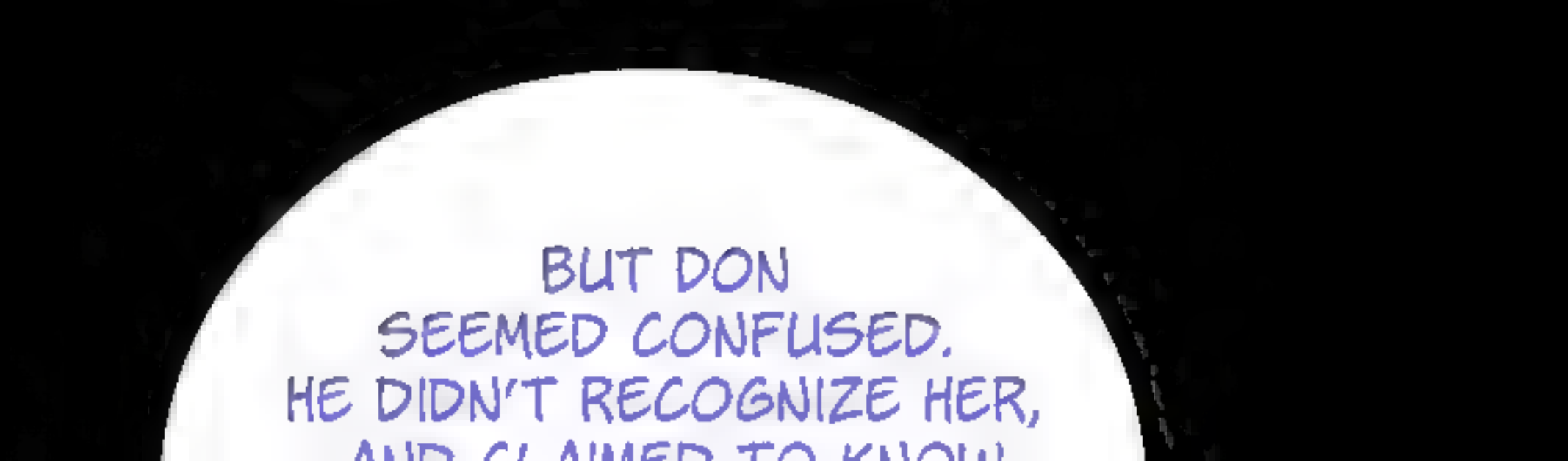
WAS NO MISSING BABY,
THERE WAS NO SORCERER,
AND NO ONE REMEMBERED
THEM, AS IF NEITHER
HAD EVER EXISTED.

AMELIA
RETURNED TO
US HEARTBROKEN AND
THREW ALL HER EFFORTS

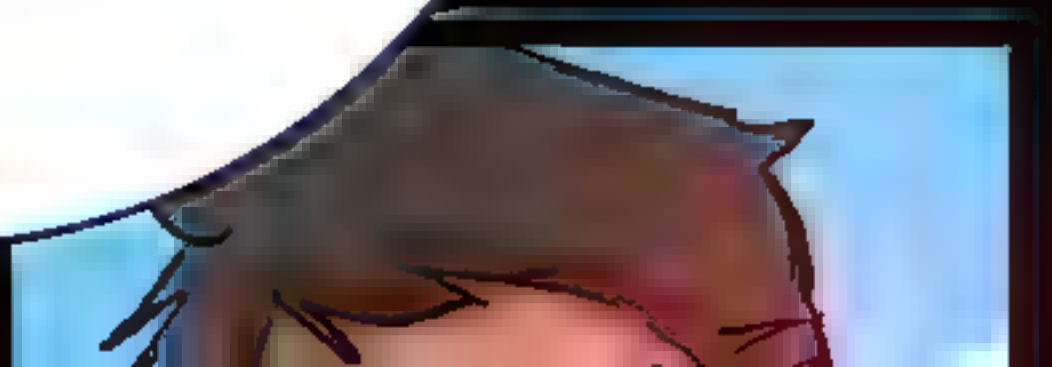

INTO ENSURING THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN TO OTHERS. BUT SHE NEVER STOPPED LOOKING, AND MANY YEARS LATER THE VSC FOUND A PERFECT ID MATCH OF THE SORCERER...

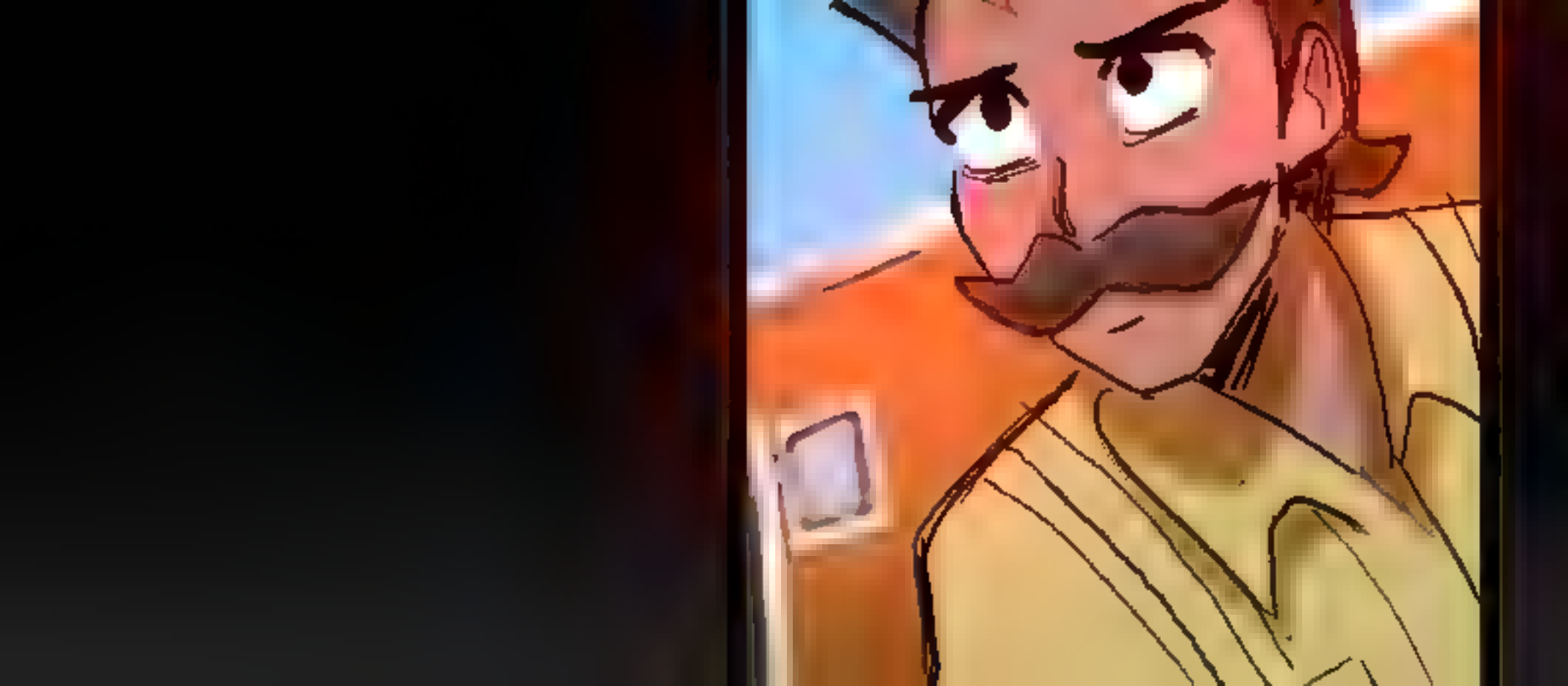
...A BARD
LOCATED IN
1950'S MEXICO.

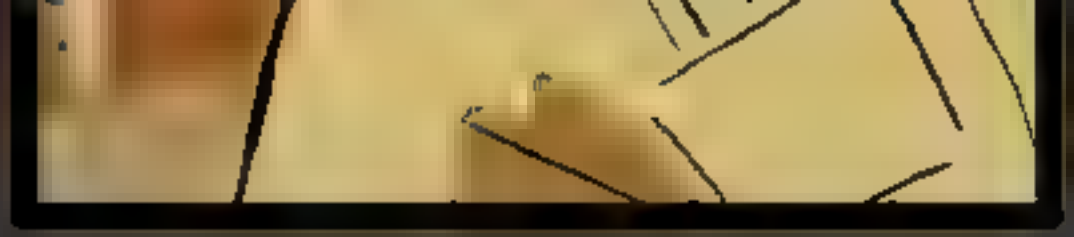
AS SOON AS AMELIA SAW DON SANTIAGO, SHE KNEW HE WAS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE.


BUT DON
SEEMED CONFUSED.
HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HER,

AND CLAIMED TO KNOW
NOTHING OF A SORCERER
OR A BABY. HE SAID HE
HAD NOTHING TO
DO WITH IT.



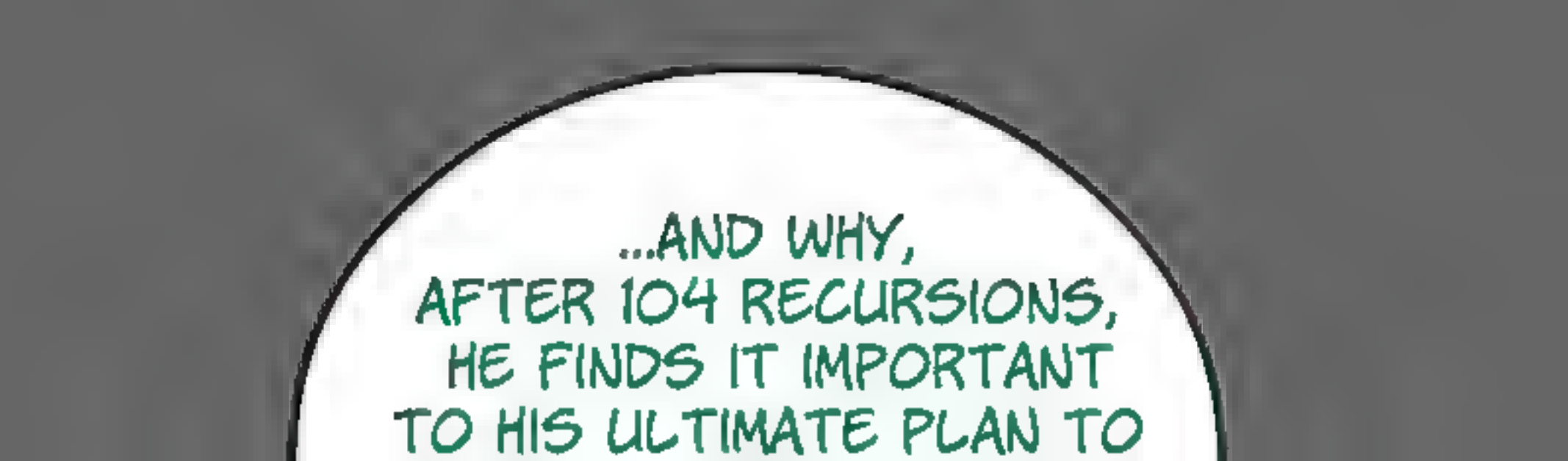




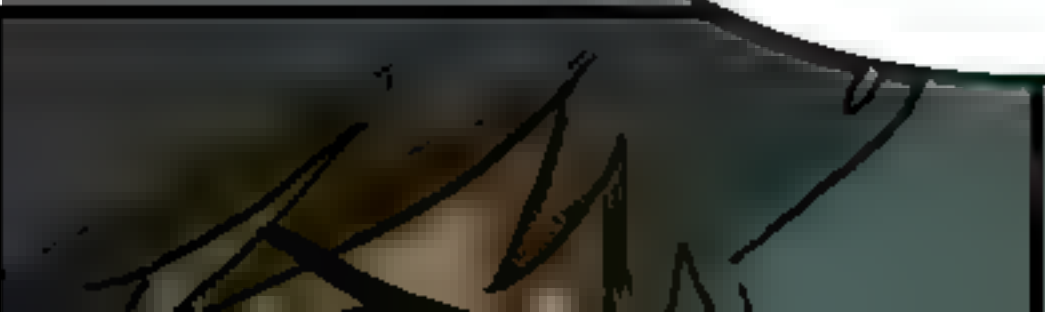
IT COULD BE A MISUNDERSTANDING, LIKE AN ANCESTOR OR A LOOK ALIKE, BUT IF SHE REALLY IS FROM RECURSION 104, IT COULD BE MORE SINISTER.

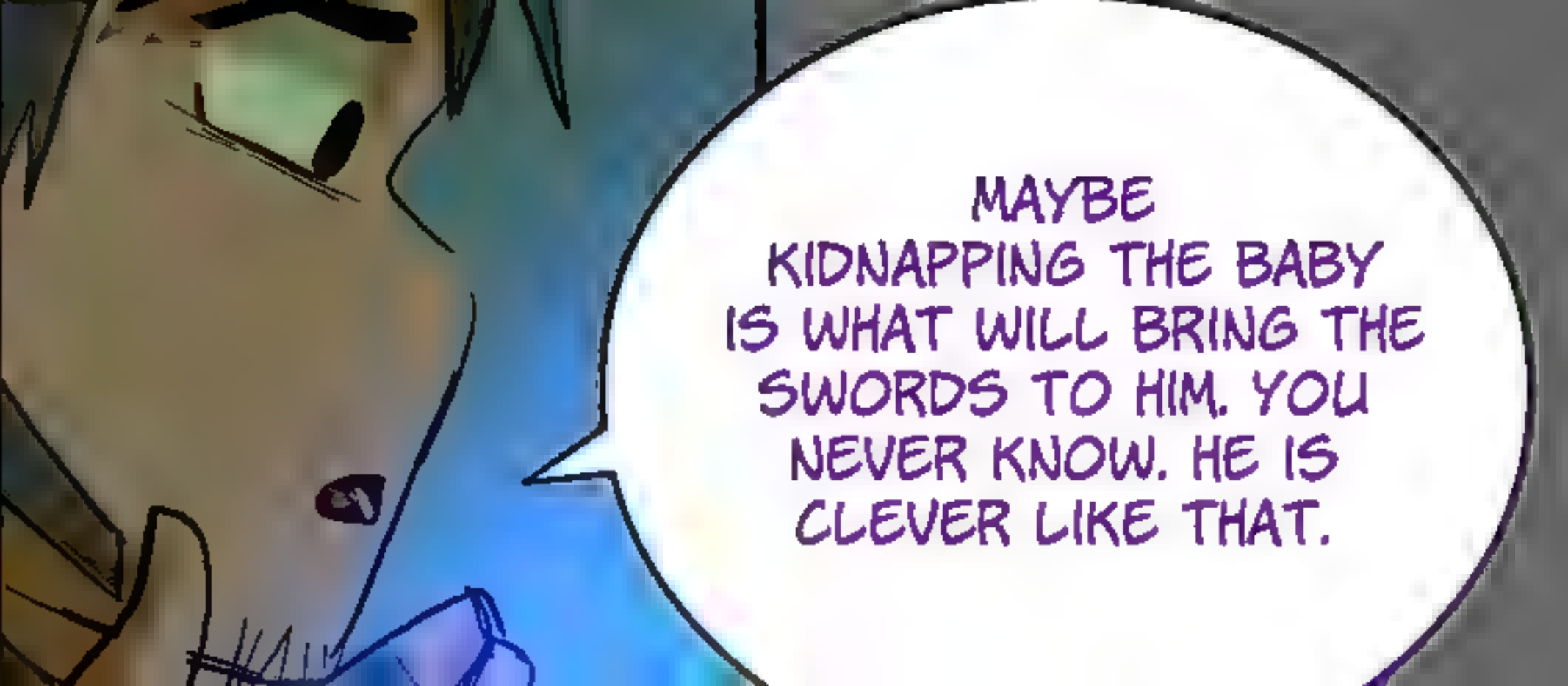
WE NEED TO GO BACK TO 104, FIND THE SORCERER, AND CONFIRM WHETHER

OR NOT HE IS DON...

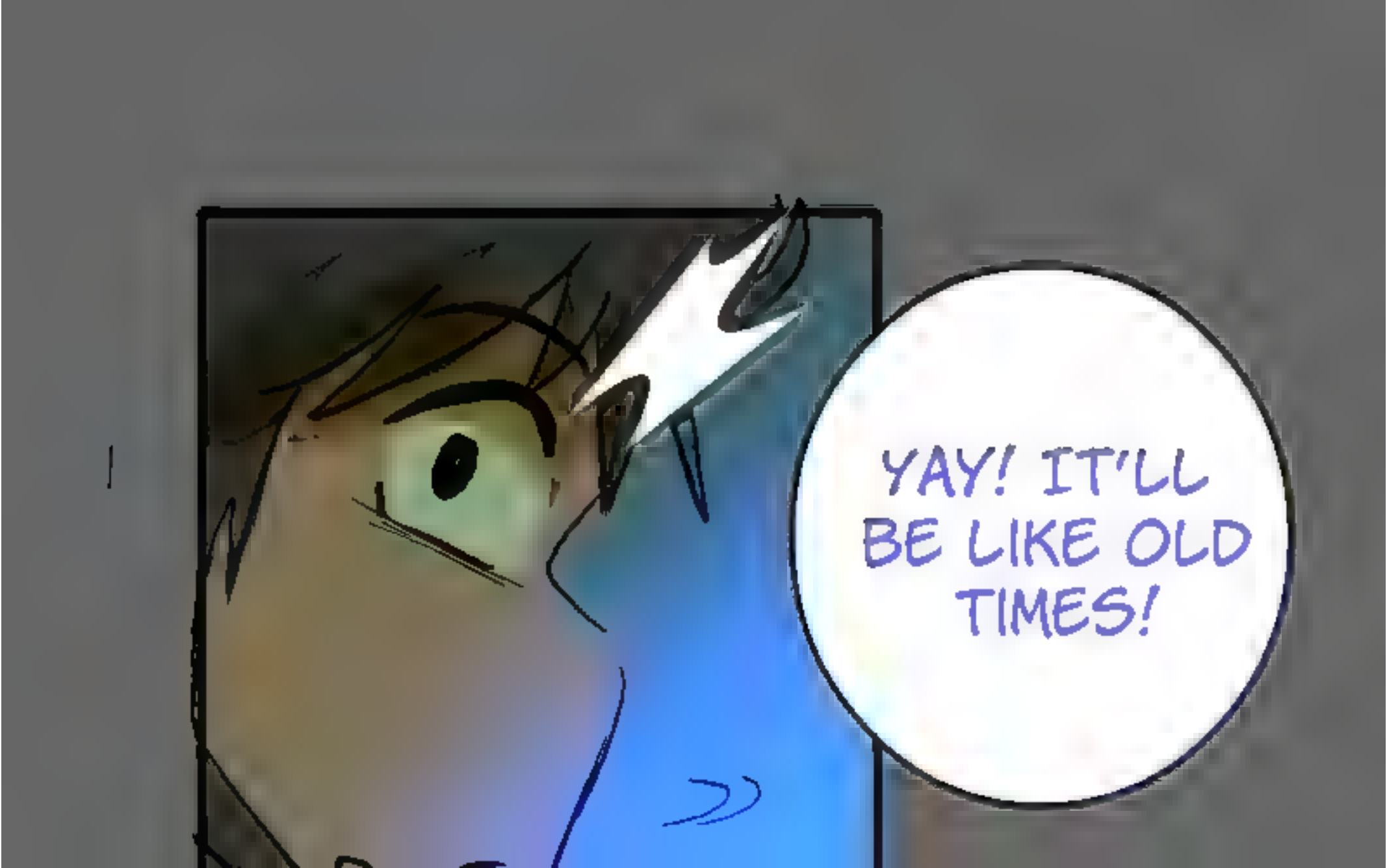

...AND WHY,
AFTER 104 RECURSIONS,
HE FINDS IT IMPORTANT
TO HIS ULTIMATE PLAN TO

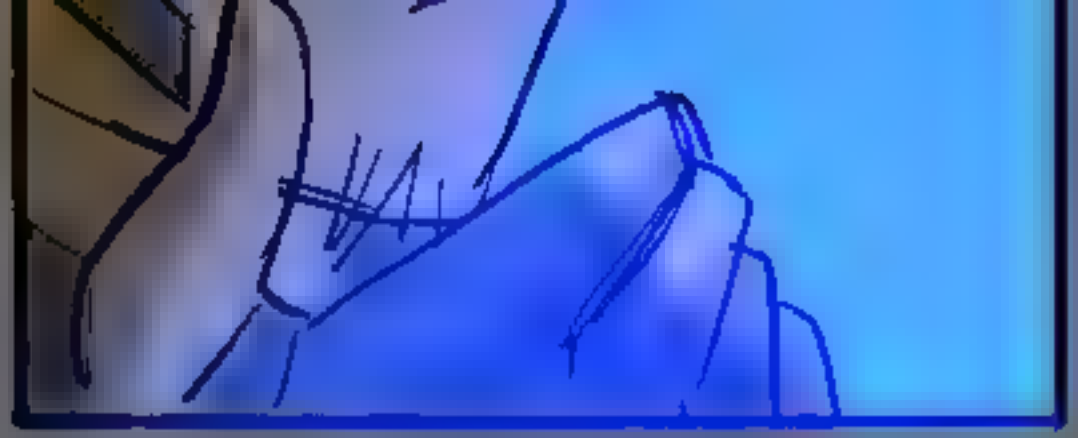
KIDNAP A BABY INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON COLLECTING ALL THE SWORDS.




MAYBE KIDNAPPING THE BABY IS WHAT WILL BRING THE SWORDS TO HIM. YOU NEVER KNOW. HE IS CLEVER LIKE THAT.

WE WILL
JUST HAVE TO
GO TO THE 1100S
AND FIND OUT.


YAY! IT'LL BE LIKE OLD TIMES!



WE CAN
GO OUT THERE
AND SAVE THE DAY
JUST LIKE IN

THE ROOM OF SWORDS!

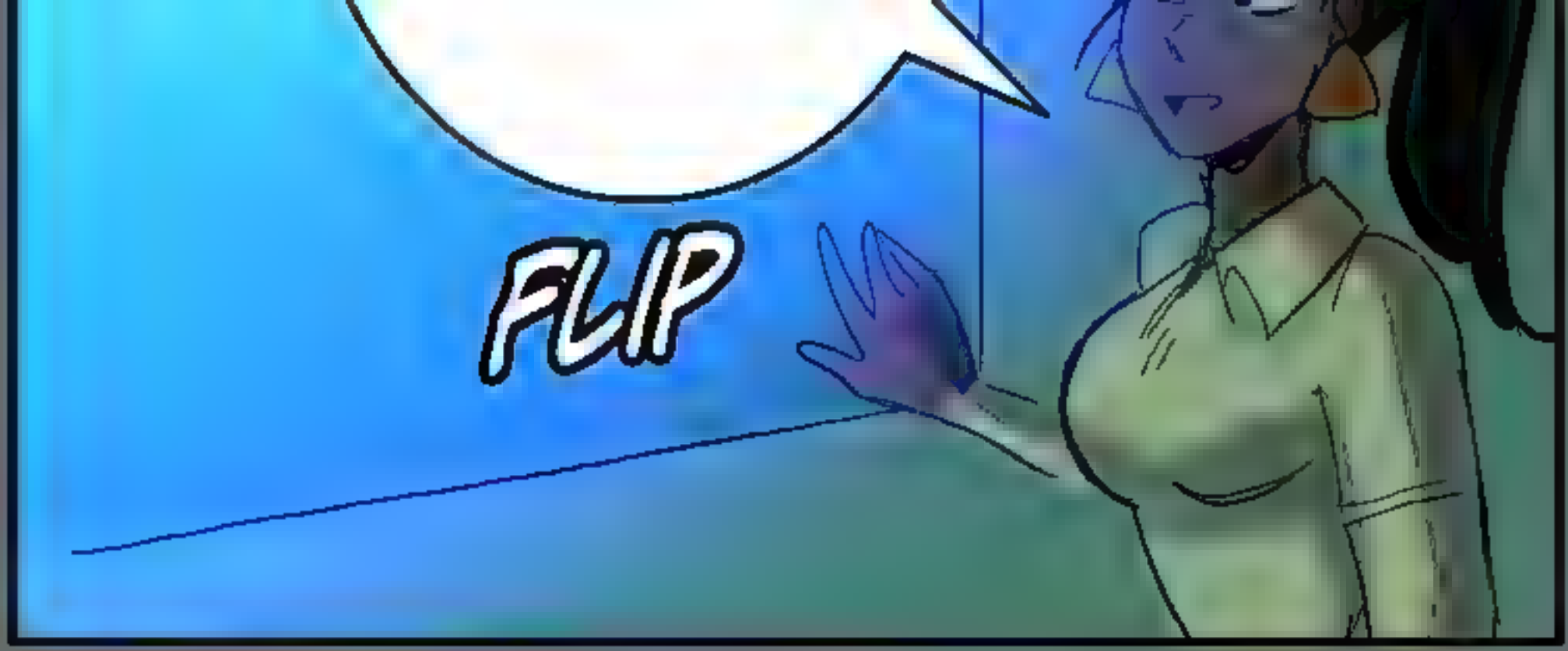
THIS IS
GOING TO
BE SO EXCITING!

HOLD YOUR HORSES...WE STILL NEED TO REST AND RECOVER BEFORE WE GO OFF TO CONFRONT

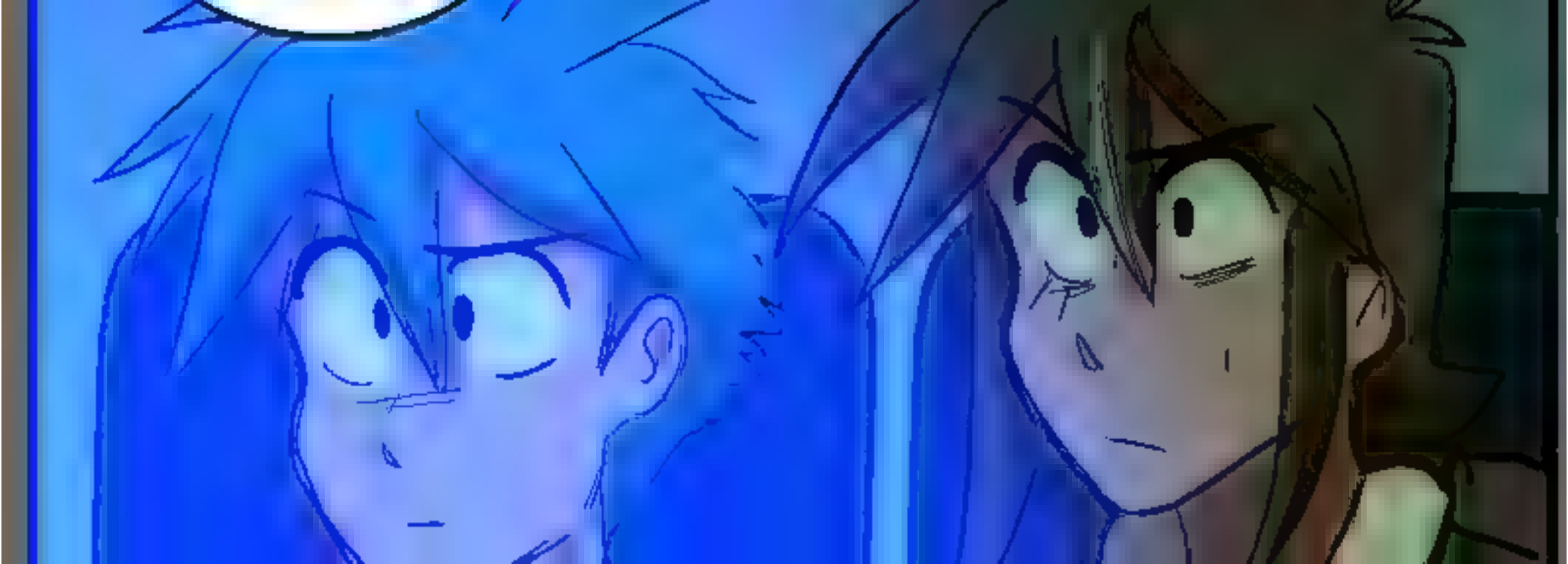
DON AGAIN.

MISS COUNTERPART, DO YOU KNOW A PLACE WE COULD SPEND THE NIGHT WITHOUT CAUSING ANY UNWANTED DISTURBANCES TO THE TIMELINE?

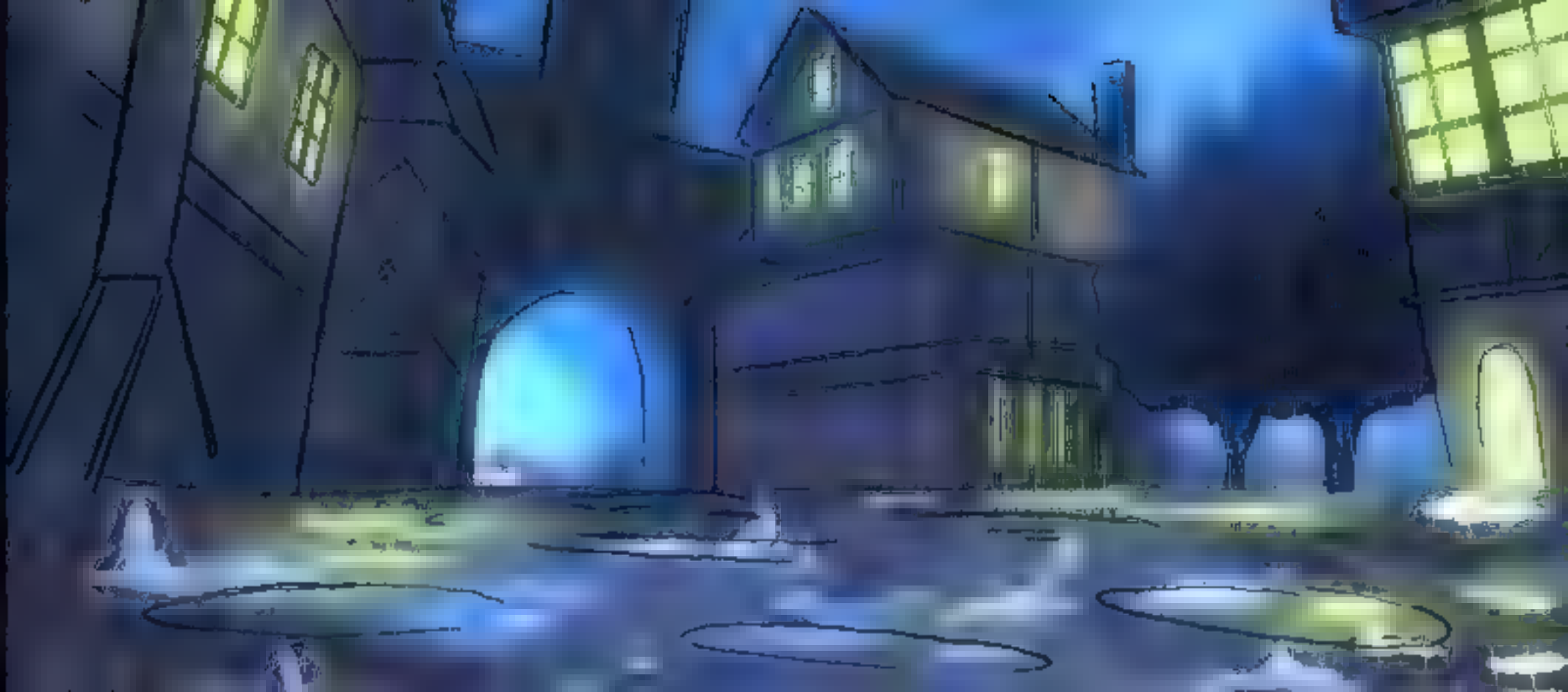
I THINK I KNOW JUST THE PLACE! 5 STAR RATING!

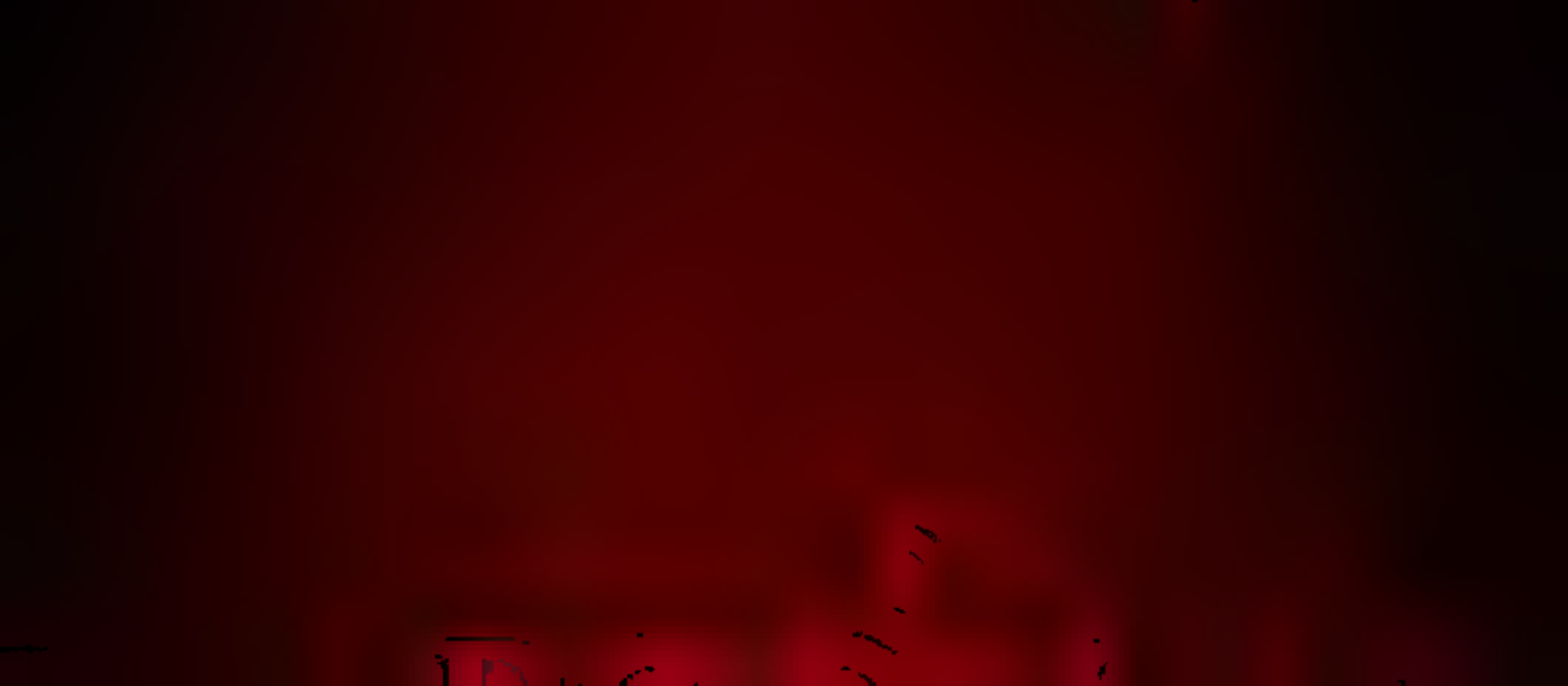

FLIP

A MEDIEVAL ERA INN!



INN

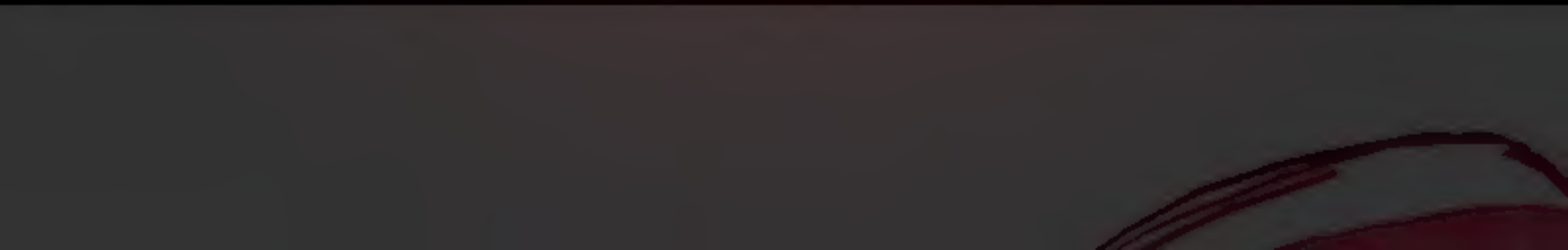


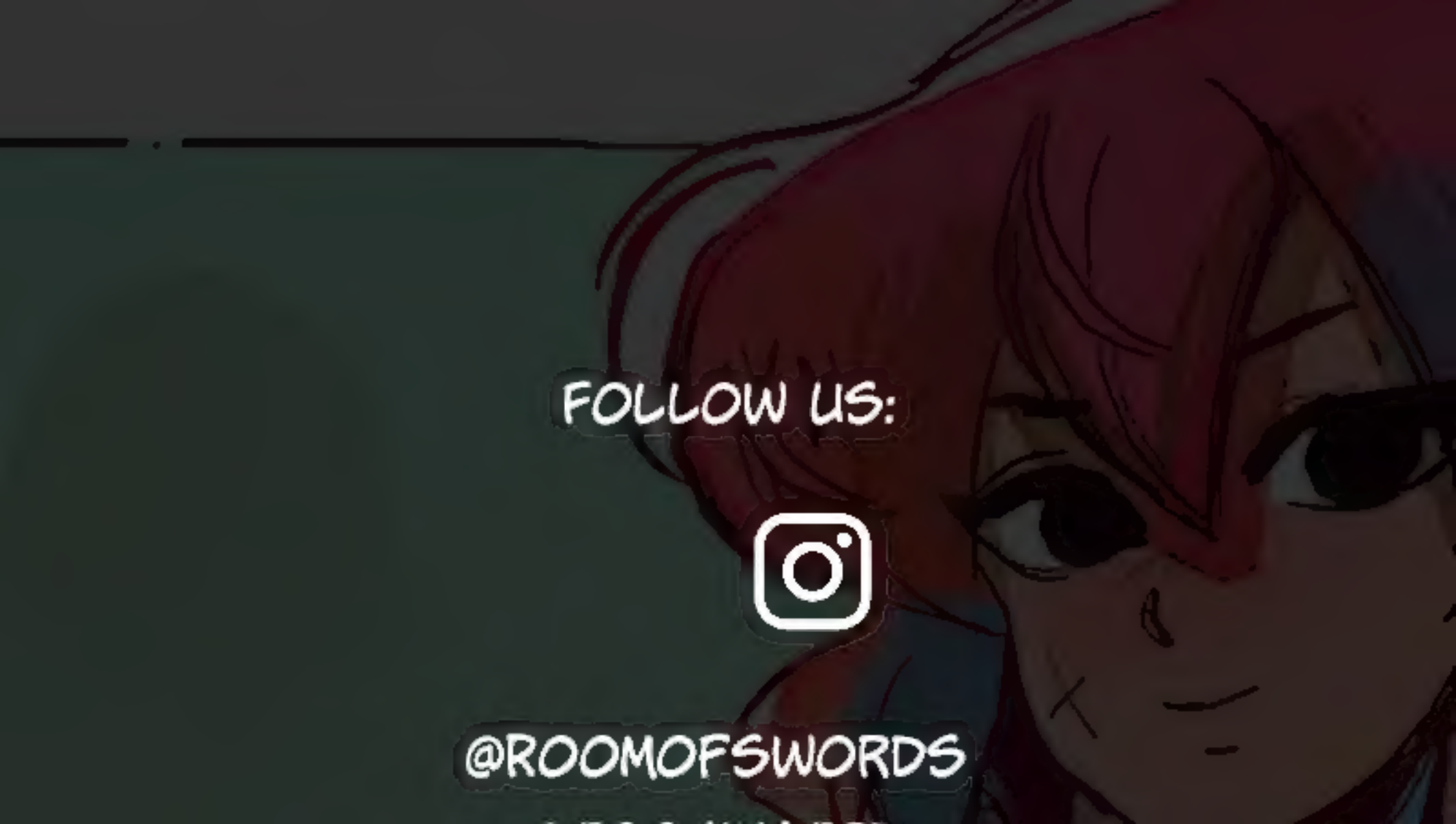


ROOM of
SWORDS
UPDATES EVERY MONDAY

writing assistants:
GHOSTING

color assistants:
@tatzu_zam @aksumikat

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